

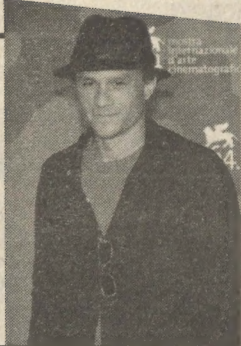


gateway

HAPPY  
*Holidays!*

2008





The year in entertainment:  
taking a look back

The Gateway walks you  
through the highs and lows  
of entertainment in 2008.

**CULTURE**  
[PAGE 8]

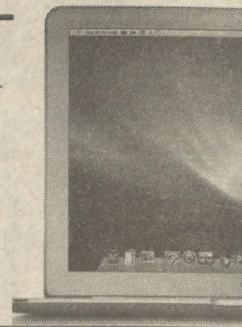
# gateway

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA SINCE 1913

Gateway guide to great last-  
minute holiday gifts

Our annual picks of the best  
choices for yuletide cheer this  
holiday season.

**CULTURE**  
[PAGES 12 & 13]



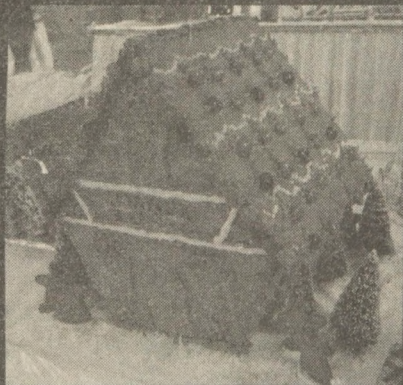
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FRIDAY | DECEMBER 12, 2008



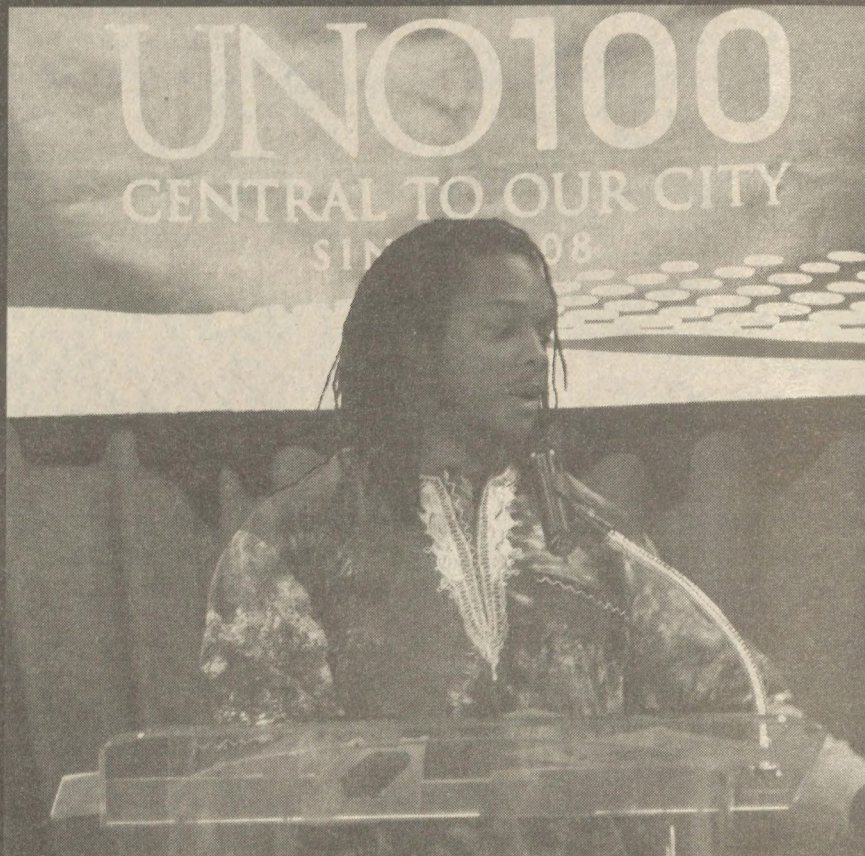
PHOTOS BY JUDY RYDBERG

## GINGERBREAD HOUSES!



Gingerbread creations are not limited to houses. At "Gingerbread on Parade," patrons can see gingerbread globes, igloos, trees, outhouses and even a gingerbread nuclear plant. The annual "Gingerbread on Parade" takes place at the Mormon Trail Center at 3215 State St. The event runs 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily through Jan. 1. It is free and open to the public.

For more photos, see pg. 11.



PHOTOS BY KIRBY KAUFMAN

## CELEBRATING KWANZAA!



Above: Sharif Liwaru, director of Cultural Programs and Student Organizations, speaks at the annual Kwanzaa luncheon on Dec. 5.

Left: Students watch the Kwanzaa celebration, which included presentations on the principles of Kwanzaa from the Impact Movement, Pan African Student Organization, Circle of Brotherhood, National Council of Negro Women and the African American Organization.

# UNO public relations students hold charity drive for the dogs

MELISSA ANDERSON  
CONTRIBUTOR

Christmas music floated through the air — along with yips, barks and meows.

This was the scene on Dec. 7 for the annual "Santa Paws," an event hosted by the UNO chapter of Public Relations Student Society of America. For the past four years, the Bookworm bookstore, at 87th and Pacific Streets,



PRSSA volunteers and Santa get ready for a photo with two Rottweilers, Abby and Atticus. (KEEGAN NIEDERDEPPE/PRSSA)

has hosted "Santa Paws" so animal owners can have their pets' pictures taken with Santa Claus for \$15.

"Because they are a pet-friendly bookstore, they're always very excited to host the event," PRSSA member Keegan Niederdeppe said of the Bookworm.

Niederdeppe said the event brought in 24 dogs and one cat. As a pet owner, Niederdeppe said each year the event grows closer to her heart.

"My favorite part is the dogs, of course," Niederdeppe said. "I hold a special place in my heart for beagles and rottweilers."

Fellow PRSSA member Jen Lane brought in Ella, the only cat photographed that day.

"I know the people that work here," Lane said. "They're awesome. They all take care of my cat while I'm walking around the bookstore."

Beth Black, owner of the Bookworm, said she is happy to host "Santa Paws."

"Every year it's gotten better," Black said. "[The PRSSA students] are personable people."

Black, who owns collies and cocker spaniels, said she thinks it's important for animal lovers to bring their pets to this event.

"[Animals] need to come someplace where there are people and they are comfortable," Black



Volunteers with PRSSA pose for a photo with Santa at Santa Paws on Dec. 7. (COURTESY PRSSA)

said.

The event helped raise money for different causes around the metro.

Last year, donations went to the Town and Country Humane Society.

This year, the organization raised \$335 and donated proceeds to the Mid-America Rottweiler Rescue, an organization that provides veterinary care and adoption services to Rottweilers around the Midwest.



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## Kidnapping victim recounts terrifying tale of carjacking, surviving in Omaha

MARK REAGAN  
STAFF WRITER

Chriss Abbott was standing outside in the yellow light of a street lamp late one Wednesday night in front of a bar in Benson that had just closed.

That's when he saw two men wearing stocking caps and bandanas that covered their faces up to their eyes. They approached him.

Abbott, a self-employed computer technician, had a bad feeling and hurried to his car.

Abbott hit the unlock button twice and opened all the locks to his four-door car.

"They jumped in the car and they pulled out guns on me," Abbott said.

Abbott said they ordered him to go to an ATM. He drove to the First National ATM on 57th Street and North West Radial Highway and the men ordered him to withdraw \$60 dollars, which he did. They ordered him to take out another \$20, and he did, telling the men it was all he had.

"Then they demanded my car keys," Abbott said. "They got in my car and said you're coming with us."

The men demanded he drive to Council Bluffs to buy them beer, he said.

"They drove me over to Council Bluffs to get them a 24 pack of Budweiser Select at a BP gas station," Abbott said. "I think it's just by the casinos. I'm not sure it was kind of hazy that night."

Abbott continued, "They told me if I deviated from what they wanted they would shoot me and everybody inside."

Abbot managed to give the gas station attendant his license plate number and said he had been kidnapped. He said the attendant called the police shortly after he left.

Then Abbott's kidnappers told him to drive to another BP, this time in North Omaha near the Omaha police precinct headquarters.

"They had me go in and buy - I think it was seven, but I remember it being some odd number of condoms," Abbot said. "They didn't ask for packages or anything. They wanted individual Trojan Magnums."

The carjackers then drove Abbot around in circles for a few hours, he said, and dropped him at an elementary school near 38th and Maple Streets.

Abbot said he ran through the neighborhood there screaming for help. A

SEE **KIDNAP**: PAGE 4



## Senators satisfied with progress this semester

BRIAN MOODY  
STAFF WRITER

Student Government members said they are satisfied with the last several months within the organization and hope to continue that trend when spring semester begins in January.

New faces have appeared in the organization's Milo Bail Student Center offices, but members embraced the three new senators and the many committee appointments approved recently.

"I definitely think that we've grown as Student Government from last year to this year," Sen. Megan Schmitz said. "We have three new senators, and they are all very passionate about Student Government. I really think they want to step up, and they want to accomplish a lot. We have a great future ahead of us."

Executive Treasurer Shari Tangeman said the last few months have been slow in the legislation-drafting arena, but it will pick up in the spring. The main reason coincides with the new senators getting acquainted with Student Government and a slow time of year.

"We haven't done a whole lot as a senate yet because they're new," Tangeman said. "By February, March, April, we really have so much going on that it's crazy."

Student Government President Lucas Seiler said he was impressed with both groups of senators he worked with during his tenure, even though the newer group has yet to draft much major legislation.

"I just had a great time," Seiler said. "The last group of senators and this group of senators have been outstanding. What they're lacking in ideas, they make up for it in character."

Seiler's eventual predecessor, Sen. Neal Bonacci, said he likes what he sees with the newly appointed members.

"I really think we've got some really excited senators," Bonacci said. "They're young, but they have a lot of goals that they had in mind. I am really excited for the future."

While the past has gone smoothly, senators are preparing for the next semester. Extended library hours, more campus lighting and continuance of the campus recycling program are on the front burner.

Recently elected Sen. Mark Patel said extended library hours next spring are a possibility.

"Apparently, the dean of the library [Steve Shorb] was really optimistic about the issue," Patel said. "He actually thought we could extend library hours for the whole year."

Another of Patel's goals is increased safety and comfort on campus.

"Currently, we are working on getting more lights on campus," Patel said.

Seiler is looking to continue programs he has pushed for, such as recycling - a very successful program thus far.

"The main things I've worked on are sustainability measures, such as recycling," Seiler said. "Sixty tons [of recyclables have been processed from UNO]. That was excellent."

Student Government's final senate meeting was Thursday, but the results of the meeting were unavailable at press time. Look for more on Thursday's meeting in the Jan. 13 issue of The Gateway.

## CRIME LOG

COMPILED BY  
SCOTT STEWART  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Wednesday, Dec. 3

**7:45 a.m.** Staff member reported the theft of personal property from Criss Library. The incident occurred between 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 2.

Saturday, Dec. 6

**2:39 a.m.** While on patrol of Scott Village, Campus Security witnessed suspicious activity. Further investigation discovered an alcohol violation. One student was referred for disciplinary action.

**3:30 a.m.** While on patrol, Campus Security witnessed suspicious activity in Lot G. Further investigation discovered an alcohol violation. Two students were referred for disciplinary action.

**4:05 a.m.** While on patrol of Scott Village, Campus Security witnessed

suspicious activity. Further investigation discovered an alcohol violation. Omaha police responded. Three visitors were issued ban and bar notices. Two students were cited for minor in possession. The students were referred for disciplinary action.

Monday, Dec. 8

**3:33 a.m.** Campus Security was dispatched to University Village regarding a noise complaint. Further investigation disclosed alcohol violations. One student and one visitor were cited by Omaha police for minor in possession.

**12:30 p.m.** Campus Security was dispatched to the west parking lot of First Christian Church to investigate a possible car break-in. Further investigation disclosed a car break-in did occur. The incident occurred between 11 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 7, and 9:40 a.m., Monday, Dec. 8.

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# 'Voices' heard through one-woman play, story of rape victim



Lauren Ackerman performs "The Yellow Dress" at the "Dare to Speak for Those Who Don't" event held by the UNO Voices Against Violence Task Force. (SCOTT STEWART/THE GATEWAY)

SCOTT STEWART  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Domestic abuse, violence and rape are all too common problems in society at large, but they're an even bigger concern on college campuses.

High school and college-aged women, for instance, are four times more likely to be raped, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics. Young women between 12 and 24 are at the greatest risk for experiencing a rape or sexual assault, with half of all rapes occurring before age 18.

These and many other such mind-boggling statistics were the focus of presentations during the UNO Voices Against Violence Task Force's second major event on campus. It followed September's "Break the Silence" arts festival and lecture by Sue Michalski of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council of Omaha.

The Dec. 4 follow-up event was

intended to focus specifically on date rape rather than intimate partner violence in general, said senior Jen Estep. Estep, the event coordinator with the student public relations agency Maverick Solutions, and her team had been working on the follow-up since the September arts fair.

"Dare to Speak for Those Who Don't" featured a one-woman play, poetry reading and an acquaintance rape survivor. Event organizers also enticed students passing by the Milo Bail Student Center Nebraska Room — located adjacent to the food court — with free pizza and soda.

Sean Campbell, a sophomore in music performance, admitted being drawn in by the promise of pizza.

"But I did actually want to hear what they had to say," Campbell said.

The event kicked off with a performance of the one-woman play "The Yellow Dress" by Lauren Ackerman, which was followed by a poetry reading by Teresa Oberdorfer.

Both Ackerman and Oberdorfer are members of the UNO forensics team who brought home national-level honors last May — Ackerman for oral interpretation and Oberdorfer for poetry.

Ackerman captivated the audience with her story of a high school student who is emotionally abused by her boyfriend and is eventually killed on prom night.

Silence engulfed the Nebraska Room, with only the faint murmur from the lunchroom and the occasional opening of a soda bottle audible at several junctures during the play.

For Terri Perry, the staff development coordinator of the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner/Sexual Assault Response Team program at Methodist Hospital, it was the second time she had seen the performance.

Ackerman's character spoke the truth of what people go through in intimate partner abuse, Perry said. The audience was so quiet you could have heard a pin drop.

Cierra Rodriguez, a freshman studying criminal justice, agreed with Perry's positive assessment of Ackerman's performance and the touchy subject matter of the play.

"It was emotional," Rodriguez said. "I think it's important for people to know about date rape and relationship problems."

The performance had so much impact on some members of the audience that Laura Wiese, a counselor for Omaha YWCA, began a dialogue with students by opening

emotionally abusive relationship," one student asked. "I don't know how to go about helping her."

Wiese said emotional abuse often leads to physical abuse and encouraged the student to reach out to the task force's member organizations, which include Student Health Services, the Counseling Center, Campus Security and Methodist Hospital.

SEE VOICES: PAGE 6

## FROM KIDNAP: PAGE 3

woman heard him and opened her doors to Abbott, while others called the police.

In total, the two men stole Abbott's car, \$80 in cash, a 24-pack of Budweiser Select, a broken sub woofer, a cell phone, a laptop, an external hard drive, various computer repair parts, a Fender Champion 30 watt amp and a keyboard.

The biggest problem with his laptop being stolen, Abbott said, was all the data from his clients was also stolen. His business took a hit from which he is still recovering.

"You can get a house back, a car back, money back, but you can't get your life back," Abbott said. "So that's the only thing that really matters."

Looking back on it, Abbott said the most important step he took was staying calm and cooperating.

"I don't think they ever intended to shoot me," Abbott said, "but at the time I didn't want to take the risk."

One thing Abbott would have done different, he said, is he would have gone back into the closing bar. He also said he should have only hit the unlock button once which would have only unlocked the driver side door.

Also, in the future, Abbott said he would only go out late with a group of people.

Students should be mindful of stories like Abbott's when they go out on the town to burn off steam after classes, said Paul Kosel, assistant manager of Campus Security.

"Every situation is different," Kosel said. "The fact that [Abbott] got out of it safely indicates he probably did the right thing. He could have resisted, and could have been assaulted then and had personal injury, or could have been killed."

The police would also probably tell you to comply, Kosel said, because giving a robber what they want is the first step to getting that person away from you. Complying also protects you because if the criminals are calm and getting what they want, they may not become agitated and hurt you out of frustration.

"You can replace a car, you can replace money, a checking account or whatever," Kosel said, "but you can't replace yourself."

Kosel applauded Abbott's resolution to go out with groups in the future.

"People don't always think about certain things, and one thing to think about when going to your car late at night is to go with a group of people or friends," Kosel said. "Numbers make a big difference."

Establishing a line of sight around you, if possible, is a good idea, Kosel said. Unfortunately, it's not always possible because of visual obstructions such as bushes or large vehicles. If you have a chance, doubling back can be a good idea.

"Your gut's usually right," Kosel said. "There's kind of a difference between your heart and your guts. Your heart will get you in trouble sometimes. But your gut is usually right and it's right more times than not."

Another method people can use to prepare for trouble, Kosel said, is to plan "what if?" scenarios in your head.

All the preparation in the world won't necessarily help if you're impaired, though. Kosel encouraged students not to drink alcohol excessively. Alcohol slows down the cognitive functions needed when confronted with serious situations.

"You have to be aware of your surroundings," Kosel said. "Know more than one way to get out of things."

## CAMPUS SECURITY offers holiday safety tips

Campus Security would like

to remind the campus community of some

common-sense safety tips to practice during the holiday season.

- ☛ When a person leaves his or her room or office, lock it up, even if it's only for a few minutes.
- ☛ Avoid leaving valuables or packages in plain view in a vehicle. Place them in the trunk or between the seats. When possible, do so before parking.
- ☛ During the holiday break, take valuables home from campus, offices, and residence halls.
- ☛ Anyone who is going to be working on-campus late in the evening or when few people are around should consider advising Campus Security so that an officer can pay special attention to the area.
- ☛ Anyone entering a locked residence hall, apartment building or campus building should make sure the door closes completely. Strangers should not follow anyone into a secure building.
- ☛ Students who live on-campus and are leaving town for the holidays should make sure they have someone keeping an eye on their residence and leave emergency contact information.

For more information, call Campus Security at 554-2648



# Sociologists say fear of being unable to afford gifts may drive competitive shopping

KATHLEEN KERR  
Newsday

NEW YORK (MCT) — While greed may seem an obvious motive for crowds that stampede retailers in search of bargains at this time of year, experts say fear also plays a significant role.

A fear of being unable to afford gifts — given today's economic woes — may drive many consumers to shop competitively for bargains at dawn, say local psychologists and sociologists.

Many people abandon their normal behavior when caught up in the urge to snag discounted plasma HDTVs like those on sale on Black Friday at Wal-Mart in Valley Stream, N.Y., the site of a deadly stampede.

And individual judgment can melt away as people react to being jostled in a crowd, which in turn can shatter individual notions of personal space. Mary Kirby-Diaz, a sociology professor at Farmingdale State College, said average Americans need a space "bubble" of 27 inches.

"What happens is one's individual identity becomes erased and you become part of the crowd," said Danielle Knafo, associate professor of clinical psychology at the C.W. Post Campus of Long Island University in Brookville, N.Y.

Knafo compared the shoppers' surge that left a man trampled to death at the Valley Stream Wal-Mart on Friday to crowd behavior that has resulted in injuries at rock concerts.

"Judgment, intelligence, different kinds of value, compassion — these things go out the window," Knafo said. "Fear and passion take over."

Kirby-Diaz said some people become angered by the frustration of being denied



**Above:** Shoppers wait in line to enter the Best Buy at the Shadow Lake Towne Center in Papillion around 5 a.m. on Black Friday. **Right:** Shoppers wait at Nebraska Furniture Mart on Black Friday. (Michelle Bishop/The Gateway)

a big sale.

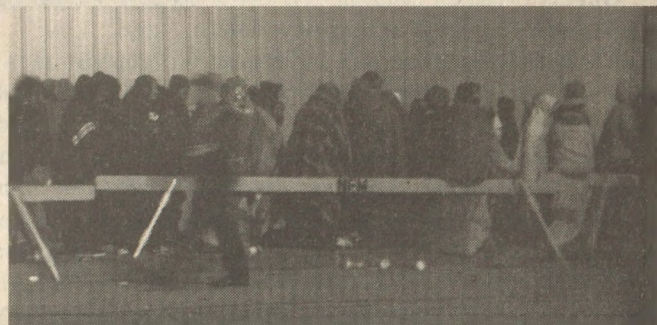
"If there's desire for something they want very deeply and they don't think they're going to get it, there's anger," Kirby-Diaz said. "Line-cutting makes people very angry."

And Rebecca Curtis, a psychology professor at Adelphi University in Garden City, N.Y., said bargain hunting can get out of hand.

"The desire for material goods is so strong and probably most of the things people were buying [at Wal-Mart] were not things that were like food," Curtis said.

"In effect, people are giving up their identity and becoming part of the crowd," said John Kane, vice-president for behavioral health services at the North

Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System. "As a result, they might do things and participate in things that they would not do on a regular basis."



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# UNO alumni form Bob Brown Quartet to blend rock, jazz for cool fusion sound

J.L. HOTOVY  
CONTRIBUTOR

UNO's music department is known for turning out quality musicians. They put on several concerts each year, create award-winning jazz ensembles and host the Great Plains Jazz Festival each summer.

But the music program proved to be a stepping stone for one group of musicians who are quickly leaving their mark on the Omaha music scene.

The Bob Brown Quartet is a band that frequently performs at local watering holes like the Nebraska Brewing Company and the Foundry. The band is made up of four students — all with ties to the university music department. They call their sound “highly creative and energetic jazz” that incorporates several genres of music.

The leader of the group and its namesake, Bob Brown, graduated from UNO in 2007 with his bachelor's degree in saxophone music performance and plays lead sax in the band.

Guitarist Andrew Malashock is a senior at UNO studying music technology. Bassist Chad Rozniecki majored in bass performance and also received a concentration in music technology in 2006.

Together with drummer Matt Arbeiter, another UNO music alumnus, the Bob Brown Quartet brings a unique jazz sound to Omaha.

The group officially formed in December 2006, but started playing seriously the following year.

Brown and Malashock have known each other since their younger days at

Beveridge Middle School. When the two kept crossing paths at UNO, it seemed like a logical idea for the pair to work together. Rozniecki and Arbeiter joined shortly thereafter through shared music classes and jazz ensembles.

But once the band formed, its members weren't exactly sure what to call themselves. On their very first gig, they decided to solicit the audience for suggestions and the results were creative.

“We used ‘Andrew Malashock and the Beer Zealots’ and ‘Chad Rozniecki and the Polish Sausages’ for a night,” Brown explained, “But ended up sticking in the long run with ‘The Bob Brown Quartet.’”

While creating a name was perhaps the least of the group's worries, it proved to be an asset to the group, serving as an umbrella to the many genres they incorporate into their sound.

“I consider our style to be post-bop/funk/fusion,” Brown said. “But we do interpretations of songs rather than have a particular style.”

While Brown's main focus in music was jazz, others like Rozniecki were more familiar with rock and metal tunes. He brings natural rock influences and his jazz performance differs greatly from what he has done before.

“With rock you play the same line all



The Bob Brown Quartet grew from the members' experiences in the UNO Music Department, bringing a unique jazz sound to the metropolitan area. (COURTESY MYSPACE)

the time,” Rozniecki said. “But with jazz, you never play the same thing twice and make new things as you go.”

The quartet uses their musical inspirations to diversify the band, noting Frank Zappa, Stan Getz, Chris Potter and Megadeath as major influences.

Rozniecki said accomplished Omaha musicians Luigi Waites and Steve Gomez are two of his biggest musical heroes. He has even had the opportunity to perform with them.

While the group is still fairly new on the music scene, they have certainly gained lots of fans along the way, including UNO graduate student Jason Fuller.

“Even though I've already seen them quite a few times,” Fuller said. “There is always something new and I never know exactly what to expect.”

Brown said the artistic push is important. He credits his band mates with “keeping me motivated to keep doing what I'm doing.”

As of late, their hard work seems to be

paying off. Brown acknowledges that the group has a loyal fan base of 10 followers and hopes that the numbers keep growing.

If you'd like to check them out, “The Bob Brown Quartet” performs on Tuesday and Thursday nights at the Nebraska Brewing Company.

“Who can argue with good brews and live jazz?” Fuller said.



COURTESY MYSPACE



COURTESY MYSPACE

## FROM VOICES: PAGE 4

anonymous to protect her friend. “I'm still in the process of assessing it.”

She said she related to some of the lines Ackerman delivered in the play.

“When people think about abuse,” she said, “I think they think more about physical. It doesn't always have to be physical to do a lot of damage.”

Wiese said afterwards that date rape and domestic abuse were difficult topics to talk about publically.

“Education is so important in this area because there's a lot of things that people don't know,” Wiese said. “I'm very happy that UNO is doing something like this.”

The turnout for the performance — about 150 students, including a sexual development class of more than 100 students — impressed Hugh Reilly, an associate professor of communication who attended the event.

“From what I could see, it was great,” Reilly said. “It's always difficult to attract students to events of this nature, this time of year in particular.”

Following the play and poetry reading was a brief intermission in the event. Many

students left, but a core of around 50 people, including about 35 students, mingled with the task force's representatives.

After several minutes, Julie Medina, a deputy attorney for Douglas County, got up to speak about her experiences as an 11-year survivor of acquaintance rape.

Medina quickly quieted the crowd with her most startling statistic: one in every four women and one in every 33 men will be victims of sexual assault. Every two minutes someone is sexually assaulted in the United States.

“If you think about that,” Medina said, “as we're sitting here, by the time we're done, you can imagine how many people that is going to be.”

Rape is also one of the most underreported crimes in the country, with approximately 60 percent of attacks going unreported, said Medina, who works in the domestic violence unit.

“This is not a crime, most of the time, with a stranger in the bush, which is what we think” Medina said. “Eighty percent are someone you know, whether it be a date, a family member or, in my case it was a coworker.”

The assailant is known 86 percent of the time for women and 74 percent of the time for men, according to a packet of information Medina distributed to the crowd as part of her “Speak Out” program.

The key point to remember, Medina said, is rape is nothing to be ashamed about: the blame lies solely with the aggressor, not the victim.

“This is not something you should be embarrassed about,” Medina said. “I learned very early on that what happened to me is not my fault and I shouldn't be embarrassed about it.”

Rape also has nothing to do with sex, even in married situations, Medina said. Instead, rape is about control and power over the victim.

Moreover, sexual assault and rape aren't crimes that effect only women, said Marti Rosen-Atherton, the director of the Counseling Center.

“I was touched by the number of men that were here,” Rosen-Atherton said. “It's not only women as victims, and not only heterosexual relationships.”

More male victims are out there than most people would think, Medina said. The

domestic violence unit handles about 4 to 5 cases for males a week, she said.

Gays and lesbians are also a particularly underreported group, Medina said. In the roughly 150 cases handled in a month, around four tend to be same-sex relationships.

“All they have to be is intimate partners,” Medina said.

Rosen-Atherton and Marcia Adler, coordinator of Student Health Services, said the Voices Against Violence Task Force wanted to encourage a cultural shift in the attitudes towards date rape on UNO's campus. The task force used a combination of presentation styles to bring the message to different personalities and avoid lecturing.

“I think different people learn from different message styles,” Adler said.

Ackerman's and Oberdorfer's performances brought humanity to their message, Adler said. Medina's background and expertise brought credibility and detailed information to the event.

“One of the things about bringing in the arts is it hits emotions,” Rosen-Atherton said. “It opens people up to be so much more honest about their world of experiences.”



# Ten reality shows worth watching over break (maybe)

COMMENTARY BY  
ANDREA BARBE  
CULTURE EDITOR

With less than a week left of the semester, it is just about time for students to take a breather from classes and regain some of their sanity while vegging out on the couch.

With finals, homework and projects out of the way, students can catch up on some of their favorite TV shows and watch new ones. The Gateway has taken the headache out of channel surfing and narrowed down the top ten mindless, drama-filled reality shows to tune in to.

## 'Double Shot at Love' – MTV, Dec. 9

Bisexual twins Rikki and Vikki, who call themselves the Ikki Twins, take over for Tila Tequila on the MTV dating show, "A Shot at Love." The identical twins set out on a quest for lust, bringing 12 straight men and 12 lesbians on the program in hopes of finding the one for them for keeps. However, the pair will likely spread more than love (and STDs) in this trashy spin-off on the cusp of incest. While it's no gem, it's sure to get you hooked, whether you like it or not. "Double Shot at Love" airs Tuesday nights on MTV.

3.5 stars out of 5

## 'The City' – MTV, Dec. 29

MTV seems to have created another soon-to-be-cancelled spin-off show that debuts after the holidays. Whitney Port, who currently plays a supporting role on "The Hills," moves from Los Angeles to New York City on her rise in the fashion industry. Out of all the cast members from "The Hills," Port seems the most unlikely candidate for her own show. She has no drama other than a few fleeting romances and seems too sweet to keep viewers tuned in for the long haul.

2 stars out of 5

## 'Bromance' – MTV, Dec. 29

The MTV teet is getting suckled dry by all the desperate reality shows it's forcing on the air in place of quality programming. Brody Jenner, son of Olympian Bruce Jenner who's actually known for contributing something positive to our society, collaborates with MTV and Ryan Seacrest's

production company to form "Bromance," a male version of "Paris Hilton's My New BFF." The challenges will probably be the same with contestants vying for a chance at joining Jenner's entourage. The only major difference is the slightly homoerotic undertone of the show, which conducts "hot tub elimination ceremonies." Do yourself a favor and pass on this one.

1 out of 5 stars

## 'Rock of Love 3' – VH1, Jan. 4

Washed-up, wannabe rocker Bret Michaels returns to VH1 for yet another season of "Rock of Love," in which strippers and fame addicts seek attention from the Poison frontman. Complete with a bad hairpiece, grimy bandana and massive amounts of eyeliner, Michaels will predictably narrow the skanks down to the two girls that put out first. Catfights, drunken arguments and silicone galore will serve as both the rise and fall of the show. It's worth watching for a few episodes because in the end, we all know Michaels will never actually make it work with the show's "winner."

4 out of 5

## 'DietTribe' – Lifetime, Jan. 5

Lifetime premieres "DietTribe," a show that follows five female friends who have committed to losing their unwanted weight together. The friends all learn the importance of eating healthy foods, exercising and being emotionally sound over the course of 90 days. In the out, each of the women hope to lose 30 pounds with help from personal trainers, nutritionists and psychotherapists. Although this isn't set up like your typical reality show, it seems to have

heart and a good message to viewers.

4 out of 5

## 'True Beauty' – ABC, Jan 5

Tyra Banks and Ashton Kutcher bring us this "gem" of a program starring six females and four males in hopes of determining who among the ten is the most beautiful. The contestants assume that they're being judged based only out their outward appearance, but in actuality, they're being evaluated on their inner beauty as well. This segment seems a bit too cheesy and superficial for this reality show junkie. Someone at ABC needs to be reminded that breeding narcissism shouldn't be the basis for a TV show.

2 out of 5

## 'The Real World Brooklyn' – MTV, Jan. 7

"The Real World" has come a long way since it debuted one of the first reality shows on television, but isn't it enough already? MTV is now in its 21st season of "The Real World" and it's third show taped in New York. How unoriginal can you get? Again, eight strangers are picked to stay in a lavish home and attempt to get along with each other while trying to find themselves in the process. Sex, drugs, alcohol and drama ensue. Yada yada yada. While I loved the show in its first few seasons, MTV needs to change things

up and get back to playing more music. This show will flop, just as the other recent seasons have.

1.5 out of 5

## 'Hell's Kitchen' – Fox, Jan. 19

Cooking doesn't get much more real than when Chef Gordon Ramsay is in your face barking out orders. "Hell's Kitchen," now in its fifth season, will come back with more inexperienced chefs and hard-hitting challenges that will either mark-or-break the contestants. Last season proved to be the show's highest rated to date, so Fox might have

SEE **SHOWS:** PAGE 14



Happy  
Holidays!

FROM THE MILO BAIL STUDENT CENTER



# Recapping a year in entertainment - 2008

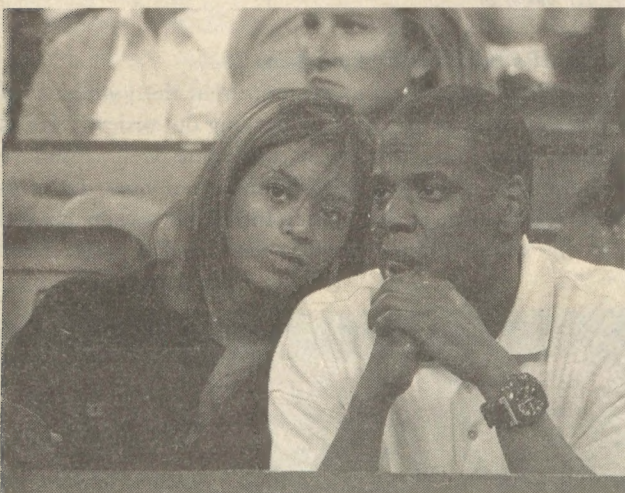
ANDREA BARBE  
CULTURE EDITOR

**Jan. 15** – Former child actor Brad Renfro, who starred in hit movies like “The Client” and “Tom and Huck,” was found dead at his Los Angeles apartment. Toxicology reports later concluded that died of acute heroin and morphine intoxication and that it was accidental. Renfro was 25.

**Jan. 22** – Australian movie star Heath Ledger, 28, was found dead in his Manhattan apartment. Ledger’s death came just a few months after wrapping his final movie, “The Dark Knight,” in which he starred as the dark and deeply disturbing Joker. Autopsy results concluded that Ledger died of an accidental overdose.

**Feb. 12** – The Writers Guild of America strike concluded after three months of protests. The strike was against the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, which represents nearly 400 American film and TV producers.

**Feb. 22** – Singer/actress Jennifer Lopez gave birth to twins in Long Island in New York City. Lopez and husband Marc Anthony named the twins Max and Emme.



**April 4** – Longtime lovers Beyoncé Knowles and Jay-Z got married in New York City.

**April 5** – Hollywood’s legendary actor Charlton Heston passed away from pneumonia. Heston was best known for his leading roles in movies like “Ben-Hur,” “The Ten Commandments” and “Planet of the Apes.” Heston was 84.

**April 28** – Vanity Fair published semi-nude photos of Disney cash cow Miley Cyrus. The photos were of Cyrus bare-breasted with a bedsheet wrapped around, which left a bad taste in many fans’ mouths.

**April 29** – Katy Perry’s song “I Kissed a Girl” debuted on iTunes and just two months later, rose to No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100. That track helped propel Perry’s career in the music industry and caused uproar in many Christian circles.

**April 30** – Pop singer Mariah Carey married actor Nick Cannon in the Bahamas.

**May 21** – David Cook won Fox’s reality hit “American Idol” after auditioning for the hit show in Omaha.

**June 1** – Yves Saint Laurent, iconic French fashion designer, died of brain cancer at age 71. Laurent was known the world over for his couture fashions and his

1966 creation of the Le Smoking suit, a classic tuxedo suit for women.

**June 19** – Jamie Lynn Spears, 17, gave birth to daughter, Maddie Briann Aldridge, who weighed in 7 pounds, 11 ounces.

**June 13** – NBC News Washington bureau chief Tim Russert died of a heart attack while recording voiceovers for his Sunday broadcast of “Meet the Press,” a show that he moderated since 1991. Russert was 58.

**June 22** – Comedian George Carlin died of heart failure at age 71. Carlin was best known for his “Seven Dirty Words” comedy routine in 1978.

**June 25** – A sex tape was leaked featuring Verne Troyer, better known as Mini-Me from the “Austin Powers” series, and his former live-in girlfriend.

**July 1** – Myspace bi-curious tramp Tila Tequila picks Kristy as the winner on her MTV reality show “A Shot at Love II.” However, Kristy did not accept Tila’s final key because she “was not ready for a relationship” with a woman.

**July 12** – Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie gave birth to twins in Nice, France. The pair named the boy Knox Léon Jolie-Pitt and the girl Vivienne Marcheline Jolie-Pitt and sold the first images of them to People and Hello! magazine for \$14 million.

**July 18** – “The Dark Knight” debuts in theaters after the anticipation following Heath Ledger’s death back in January. The dark thriller made box office records, grossing over \$155.3 million in just its opening weekend.

**July 27** – Upcoming actor Shia LaBeouf was arrested for drunk driving in Los Angeles after a car collision in which LaBeouf injured his hand. Although it was determined that the other driver caused the accident by running a red light, LaBeouf was drinking that night and was cited for a misdemeanor driving under the influence.

**Aug. 9** – Comedian Bernie Mac died at age 50 from complications due to pneumonia. Mac starred in several movies and TV shows, in addition to performing for “The Original Kings of Comedy” with fellow comedians Steve Harvey, Cedric the Entertainer and D.L. Hughley.

**Aug. 10** – U.S. swimmer Michael Phelps won his first gold medal in the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing. By the end of the week, Phelps had earned eight gold medals, surpassing Mark Spitz’s previous record of seven medals.

**Aug. 28** – “The X-Files” star David Duchovny checked himself into a rehabilitation facility for sexual addiction treatment.

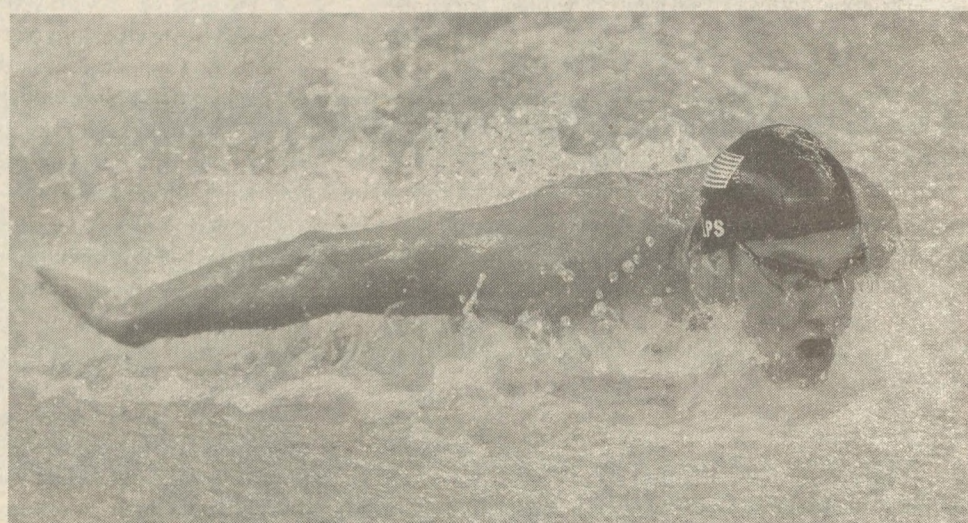
**Sept. 2** – New Kids on the Block, popular ‘90s boy band, released their new album titled “The Block,” their first compellation in over a decade.

**Sept. 2** – The CW Network brought back teen drama “90210,” a remake of the hit show starring Jennie Garth, Shannon

Doherty and Luke Perry.

**Sept. 7** – British Comedian Russell Brand hosted the MTV Video Music Awards to mixed reviews.

**Sept. 27** – Actors Scarlett Johansson and Ryan Reynolds tied the knot after dating for more than a year.



**Oct. 8** – Playboy founder Hugh Hefner and girlfriends Holly Madison and Kendra Wilkinson ended their relationship. Hefner didn’t waste any time replacing the pair with 19-year-old twins Kristina and Karissa Shannon.

**Oct. 15** – A spokesperson announced that Madonna and Guy Ritchie filed for divorce. The couple had been together since 1999 after being introduced through mutual friend Sting.



**Oct. 23** – Italian con man Raffaello Follieri was sentenced to four-and-a-half years in prison for scamming several investors out of millions. Raffaello, known as the former boyfriend to actress Anne Hathaway, claimed to be a Vatican insider in order to gain their trust and their money.

**Oct. 24** – “High School Musical 3: Senior Year” opened in theaters across the U.S. The movie marked the third installment of the Disney series and earned \$42 million in North America over opening weekend.

**Oct. 24** – Darnell and Jason Donerson, mother and brother to “Dreamgirls” songbird and former American

Idol finalist Jennifer Hudson, were found shot to death in Chicago. Authorities later found Hudson’s nephew, Julian King, murdered after issuing an Amber Alert for the 7-year-old. Hudson’s estranged brother-in-law, William Balfour was arrested for the crimes.

**Nov. 16** – MTV’s “Total Request

Live” celebrated its last show with a three-hour finale. The once-popular music countdown show was replaced with “FNMTV,” or “Feedback New MTV,” another music video program centered on instantaneous feedback from viewers.

**Nov. 20** – “The Hills” stars Heidi Montag and Spencer Pratt get married in a secret ceremony in Mexico.

**Nov. 21** – “Twilight” premiered in theaters, earning \$70.5 million opening weekend. The movie was based off a vampire romance novel of the same name.

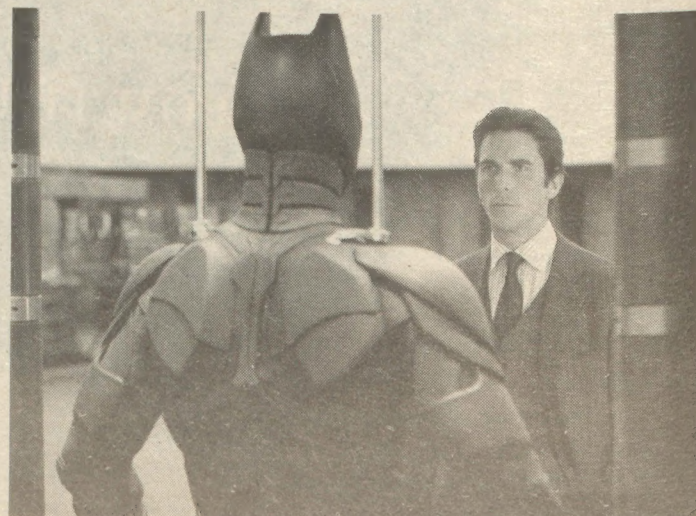
**Nov. 25** – Brooke Burke, former correspondent on E!’s “Wild On!,” beat out Warren Sapp to win ABC’s seventh season of “Dancing with the Stars.”

**Nov. 25** – People magazine dubbed Hugh Jackson this year’s “Sexiest Man Alive.”

**Nov. 28** – Britney Spears released her sixth studio album “Circus” to rave reviews, marking her comeback to music and sanity.

**Dec. 5** – Former NFL star O.J. Simpson was sentenced to a minimum of nine years in prison after committing numerous felonies, including robbery, assault with a deadly weapon, kidnapping and coercion in Las Vegas.

**Dec. 9** – NBC announced that comedian Jay Leno would host a new prime-time TV talk show in 2009 that will air weeknights at 10 p.m. “The Tonight Show” funnyman had originally announced plans to retire from the show this year.





# Yes, Virginia, you can find variety in winter seasonals

REVIEW BY  
CHARLEY REED  
CONTRIBUTOR

Let me be upfront in saying that winter is probably my least favorite season of the year. It's cold, it's windy and, in Nebraska, everything from the sky to the grass looks dead. Of course, that's all the more reason to stay inside with a tasty malted beverage, right?

The winter seasonal selections from regional and national brewers rolled out well before the temperatures dropped this year with many yearly staples such as Sam Adams Winter Lager and Coors Brewing's Full Moon Ale appearing at the end of October.

However, as the weeks have passed, a wider selection of top-quality brews have begun hitting shelves and barroom taps across Omaha. Luckily I braved the wild unknown of several winter beer selections in order to help you make your decisions.

## Odell Isolation Ale

From Fort Collins, Colo., Odell Brewing brings us a very drinkable beer,



adding to their already impressive year-round selection.

With a cool-colored bottle featuring shades of blue and orange, Odell's Isolation ale pours an orangish-red color with a decent retention of a foam head.

Smelling slightly of hops and spices, Isolation hits your palate first with a sharp hit of floral hops with a cooling malt balance for an aftertaste. This beer is heavier on the hops than on the spices and so if you are a fan of Odell's India Pale Ale, this is a good transition beer for the holidays.

Rating: 3.5 out of 5

## Nebraska Brewing Company's

## Red Sled Ale

I'm not normally a fan of the Nebraska Brewing Company's selections, however, Red Sled is by far my new winter seasonal of choice.

Very similar to an Oktoberfest Marzen style lager, Red Sled is a bitterly hoppy selection that leaves a very sweet taste after a sharp finish.

Red Sled has noticeably higher alcohol content than your common microbrews so this isn't exactly a beer that you want to have more than two of on any given night. In my opinion, you don't even need to drink that many of this local gem to be filled with some holiday spirit.

This one is a keeper; and a delicious one at that

Rating: 4.5 out of 5

## Sam Adams Old Fezziwig Ale

This selection comes from Boston brewers Sam Adams. As part of their yearly seasonal sampler pack, Sam Adams brings us a more complicated and heavier beer than one might initially associate with the national brewer.

Unfortunately, while the beer definitely has a distinct flavor, particularly that of molasses and cinnamon, drinking the beer feels a little too similar to drinking a flat soda. The lack of carbonation is a bit of a turn

off for me.

The malt and molasses flavors are likely to be definite pluses for people who prefer porters or stouts; in fact, this selection might be a good middle ground for those who tend to stay away from hoppier selections.

Rating: 2.5 out of 5

## Boulevard Nutcracker Ale

This annual selection for Kansas City brewers Boulevard is similar, but a bit more adventurous than Odell's Isolation Ale.

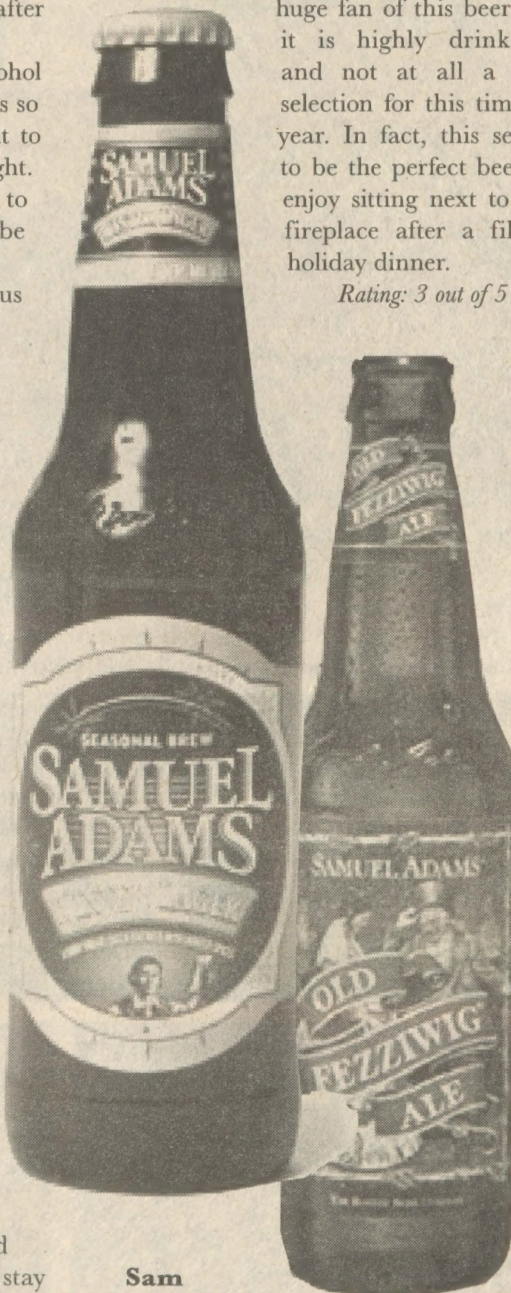
A thick spice and slightly heavier alcohol aroma is immediately noticeable from the bottle. The thickness continues

with the taste that includes a profile of what seems to be molasses and a smoky flavor.

The beer is made with dry hops and the bitterness is evident in the aftertaste but the malt quickly takes over and provides the last hint of flavor you notice in the finish.

I can't claim to be a huge fan of this beer but it is highly drinkable and not at all a bad selection for this time of year. In fact, this seems to be the perfect beer to enjoy sitting next to the fireplace after a filling holiday dinner.

Rating: 3 out of 5



## Sam Adams Winter Lager

The best beer for your economically-challenged holiday dollar. Most 12-packs of Sam Adams Winter Lager can be purchased for just over a dollar a beer.

This holiday staple from the makers of the famed Boston Lager is a spicier, maltier selection that is highly drinkable with a crisp finish, two things I always look for in

a good beer.

Ginger, honey and citrus are evident along with a slight hint of hops coming through the otherwise malt-heavy body.

This beer isn't anything special but it isn't any slouch either. If you are short on ideas for a good holiday party beer, then make sure to pick up a box of light blue bottles from Samuel Adams.

Rating: 3.5 out of 5

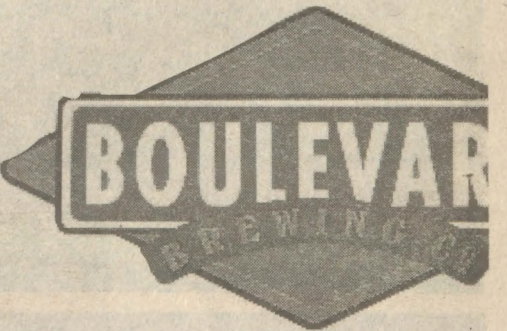
## Lakefront Holiday Spice Lager

This beer pours a cloudy tan color and has a scent of crisp citrus. The flavor is very light and sweet, similar to a potpourri or lavender. Honey is probably the most dominating taste but there is also some orange and ginger.

The malt level is well balanced with the hops. This beer is hardly bitter at all and actually reminded me a bit of J.W. Dundee's Honey Brown but with some winter spices thrown in; a nice mix.

This beer doesn't really stand out as anything unique or different from your typical winter offering except that it the common flavors are kicked up a notch.

Rating: 3 out of 5



Overall, this time of year is one where the cold weather requires more alcohol to warm our bodies, so the intention for many a beer drinker this time of year is functionality rather than taste.

But don't let the cold detract you from a tasty beer. If there was one piece of advice I could impart to readers it would be to know your likes and dislikes when it comes to beer styles.

Hopefully my foray into the world of winter beers has given domestic beer drinkers some options to explore this holiday season. After all, what's life without a little excitement?

# Holiday fashions without breaking the bank

JARED SPENCE  
CONTRIBUTOR

'Tis the season of giving. Finding the perfect gift for everyone on your list can prove to be a daunting task, especially when taking into consideration the current stale economic state.

However, this holiday season, remember that giving is an opportunity to brighten the mood with fun and affordable luxury.

With some help and creative ideas, shopping for loved ones can encompass both style and affordability without making your bank account go into the negative digits.

This season, sweaters, coats, scarves and all things warm and cozy provide a great opportunity to give the perfect gift that is both practical and stylish.

Instead of giving grandma's chunky, crocheted sweater or playground mittens,

surprise your favorite female friend or relative with cashmere.

Forever 21 sells a cashmere and cotton blend tie-front sweater for \$24 and Old Navy has a striped cashmere sweater from Old Navy for \$40.

For those hard-to-buy-for people on your list, a circle scarf from American Apparel is perfect. It costs \$28.

You wouldn't dare step out of the house without a coat or jacket when snow is dusting the ground. So why not step out in style with a more playful take on the winter coat?

Bright hued and patterned outerwear makes hot winter season gifts. A magenta wool coat from Forever 21 is less than \$40. You or someone you love can look like a million bucks.

Tinsel sprinkled Christmas trees and

light-trimmed rooftops do not have to be the only things sparkling.

The holidays are the perfect time for you to shine with metallics and sequins. Spread a bit of sparkle with an Adia Kibur crystal egg ring, available at lifemix.net for \$48.

You could also give a trendy gift and splurge on American Apparel's unisex shiny windbreaker. Although it's \$60, it's sure to be a hit.

For your environmentally conscious friends, there's recycled plastic sunglasses from ICU eyewear. They offer a great replica of Ray-Ban Wayfarers in four different colors all for under \$22.

When in doubt, denim is always a fail proof gift. It's a mainstay in everyone's wardrobe and one can never have too many pairs of jeans.

Instead of wrapping up super light washes and frayed hems, upgrade to dark washes in slim cuts that can be dressed up or down. Also, colorful dyed denim puts a fun twist on a classic.

Update his denim collection with Cheap Monday Straight Leg jeans from Urban Outfitters (\$65), or spice up her look with Hermosa Super Skinny jeans from Pac Sun (\$39.50 or two for \$55).

These jeans come in an assortment of jellybean bright colors like cranberry and snow cone blue, in addition to regular washes.

The most important thing to remember is that style doesn't have to break the bank. These little tastes of luxury are easy on the wallet and sure to please both the gift giver and recipient.

Happy spending.



# UNO Art Gallery features undergraduate thesis exhibition

The UNO Art Gallery, located on the first floor of the Weber Fine Arts Building, is currently showing the bachelor of fine arts thesis exhibition.

The exhibit shows work from UNO students Shaun Benak, Jason Heida, Richard Murcek, Joe Pankowski and Josh Powell:

- Benak uses video installations to create digital documentaries of his experiences;
- Heida experiments with powerful imagery and narratives using digital images;
- Murcek works with wood and wood burning to create sculpture;
- Pankowski uses characters and hand built props as a narrative for films;
- Powell compiles his work with paints, markers, found objects and other mixed media.

The gallery hours are Tuesday through Friday from noon to 4 p.m., with additional hours on Thursday from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. when classes are in session.

- Compiled by Scott Stewart

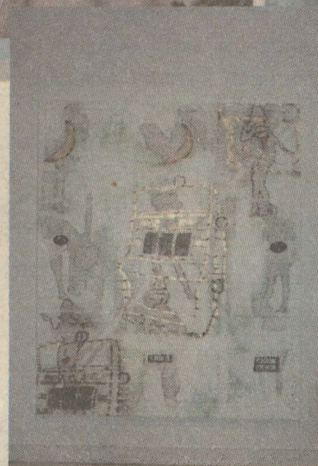
**Right:** 'United Circus of America (Death to the Clowns)' by Josh Powell, 2008

**Below:** 'Pigeon Mechanic' by Joe Pankowski, 2008



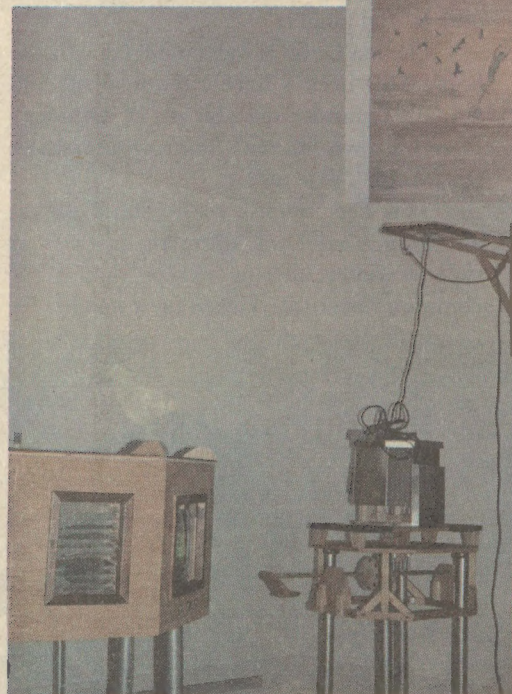
**Right:** 'Walls of Jericho' by Jason Heida, 2008

**Below:** 'Pigeon Mechanic' by Joe Pankowski, 2008



**Above:** 'Jonah and the Whale' by Jason Heida, 2008

**Left:** 'Slum City (Tic, Tac, Toe, Jane Doe)' by Josh Powell, 2008



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*Happy Holidays*

*Chancellor John Christensen*



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*photos courtesy Chris Machian*






# Gingerbread house parade adorns Mormon Trail Center



The "Gingerbread on Parade" exhibit at the Mormon Trial Center at 3215 State St. features a variety of gingerbread creations. Bottom left, Tracy Madden from WOWT explores the exhibit with her children. Bottom center, a gingerbread nuclear power plant is one of the many attractions of the exhibit.

ALL PHOTOS BY JUDY RYDBERG/THE GATEWAY





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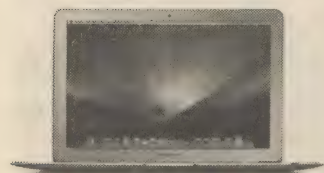




## TOP THREE

### GADGETS

BY ANDREA BARBE



#### Apple's MacBook Air

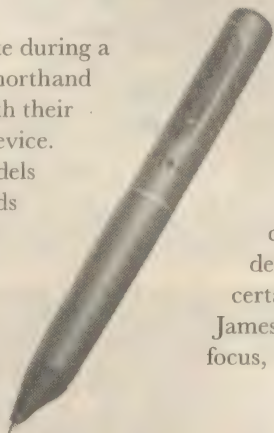
As technology gets more and more up-to-date, we see things become more compact and aerodynamic. The Apple MacBook is, of course, no exception. In late January, the computer corporation released what they called the "world's thinnest notebook," weighing in at just 3.0 pounds. The 13.3 inch widescreen display allows you to comfortably to surf the Web or type up that research paper. But size and weight isn't the only upside. This computer is the only Apple laptop with an optional solid-state hard drive to store data. MacBooks start at \$1800 and while they don't run cheap, they're certainly worth the price.

#### Logitech Harmony One Advanced Universal Remote Control

Let's face it: at one point or another, we fought over the TV remote with our siblings, parents, friends or significant other. For those of you who want to regain control over the boob tube, the Harmony One Advanced Universal Remote Control is the gadget for you. This one remote can replace up to 15 other remotes and is rechargeable, so it won't eat away your batteries. And to boot, Logitech's online database supports over 225,000 devices from more than 5,000 brands, making it the world's largest audio/video control database on the market. This remote retails at \$250 and is sure to make you a couch commando once again.

#### Livescribe Smartpen

What college student hasn't had a professor who talks a mile-a-minute during a lecture? Unfortunately, not all of us can jot down notes or use enough shorthand to keep up to speed, but Livescribe is trying to make just a little easier with their Smartpen, a writing utensil and voice recorder all built into one sleek device. Just two taps and the pen will start recording audio. There are two models available: one that holds 1 gigabyte of audio for \$150 and another that holds 2 gigabytes for \$199. No student should be without one, especially when you consider the 1 gigabyte model holds up to 100 hours of audio. That's enough talk time for all your classes and then some.



## TOP THREE

### ALBUMS

BY TOM MCCAULEY

#### The Gaslight Anthem - 'The '59 Sound'

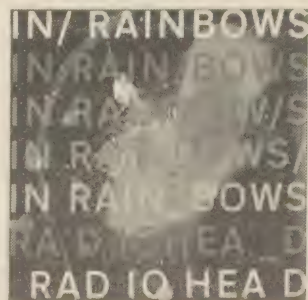
The Gaslight Anthem, an indie punk quartet hailing from New Jersey, brings it hard right from the get-go on their sophomore release, "The '59 Sound." Setting the bar ridiculously high for the rest of the album is the opening track, "Great Expectations," a soulful punk ode to lost opportunity. This collection brims with such narratives of heartache on ballads like "Old White Lincoln," which features a line from Bob Dylan's "Talkin' World War III Blues." These guys can play, and happily mix strains of blues and soul. "The '59 Sound" would make a wonderful gift for anyone who can listen to "Born to Run" all day and still show up to work.

#### Kanye West — '808s & Heartbreaks'

Last year, Kanye West endured the break-up of his engagement to designer Alexis Phifer, followed by her death. On West's fourth album, his voice registers these heartbreaks in what is his most imaginative album to date. "808s & Heartbreaks" finds West exploring the consequences of his fame. At times, West's constantly-modulated croons can get a bit grating. He has such a cool voice that one longs to hear him without all the studio glitz. Still, the album is worth the 15 bucks, and is so much better than the infectious dance hit, "Love Lockdown" would make it seem.

#### Radiohead - 'In Rainbows'

Will this band ever make a bad record? Not anytime soon, judging by the flawless execution of the British quintet's seventh masterpiece, "In Rainbows" dropped Jan. 1 and cemented Radiohead's place in rock 'n' roll history. The group did their recording in a rundown mansion. Tracks like "Bodysnatchers," featured lead vocalist Thom Yorke's famous falsetto against a backdrop of angular guitar noise and perfectly off-kilter drums. The band has come a long way from "Creep," their 1993 hit single that is somehow awesomely annoying. Predictably, the album has some naysayers, but any band as daring as Radiohead must deal with listeners who just don't get it.



# Holiday Gift Guide



## TOP THREE

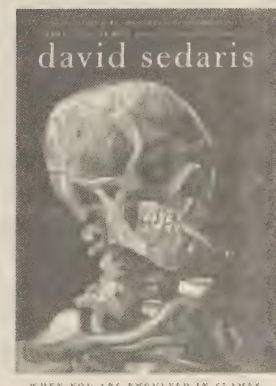
### BOOKS

BY J.L. HOTOVY

#### "When You Are Engulfed in Flames" by David Sedaris

This year, David Sedaris came out with another wonderful book, which weaves wit and humor in his personal narrative essays. "When You Are Engulfed in Flames" is a compilation of radio essays he performed on National Public Radio's "This American Life" using the descriptive style shown on every page.

Sedaris, who's considered to be one of the best humorists of our time, used dialogue that will have you laughing out loud throughout the whole book. It's perfect for the student who is weary after finals and needs a pick-me-up book.



#### "The New York Times: The Complete Front Pages 1851-2008"

Think looking through archives of old newspapers is a drag? Opening a history book bore you? This collection will have you reconsidering that perspective with this visually exciting book of selected New York Times front pages from over 157 years. Some of the most noteworthy include Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech, Abraham Lincoln's assassination and the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. This compilation makes for an unusual, but engaging coffee table book. It also comes with three DVDs that contain all of the front pages, so you can easily pull them up on your computer. This is a wonderful gift for avid readers, future journalists and history buffs.

#### "A Most Wanted Man" by John le Carré

The author behind "The Constant Gardener" and "Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy" writes a new fiction book about international intelligence, spying and military. No, this is not another tale about George Smiley, one of Carré's trademark characters. Instead, the English author wrote a thriller about Issa, a character who deals with a series of questionable actions and reactions. "A Most Wanted Man" certainly captures the essence of post-Sept. 11 war and terror. For those fans of author James Patterson or those who are looking for a suspenseful book with an international focus, this is the pick for you.

## TOP THREE

### MOVIES

BY TOM MCCAULEY

#### 'WALL-E'

This Pixar film is an anomaly in the animated world. The story details two robots, EVE and WALL-E, with more heart, feeling and connectedness than many live-action romantic comedies to date. Gorgeously computer animated with lots of wide-angle shots, this flick also incorporates beautiful melodies and show tunes. Though it occasionally slips into environmental overkill, "WALL-E" focuses on finding true love and reminds everyone to keep our planet beautiful. Actors Fred Willard, John Ratzenberger and Sigourney Weaver lend their voices to the film. "WALL-E" has soul and is perfect for both young and old.

#### 'Miracle at St. Anna'

Emmy Award-winning Director Spike Lee brings this powerful and historically significant film to life. "Miracle at St. Anna" focuses on a quickly formed bond between an ailing orphan boy and four soldiers from the all-black 92nd Infantry Division during World War II. This believable, yet enduring relationship carries the film, despite some choppy scenes. It explores many themes barely touched in other World War II films, like propaganda and racism in the military. Exchanges between the men are rich. The action and grittiness also add to the film's quality. "Miracle at St. Anna" is great for someone who already owns "The Dark Knight," but wants another action-filled drama that's actually inspired by true events.

#### 'Atonement'

"Atonement," one of this year's Oscar nominees for Best Picture, is about how childhood friendship grows into adult love and how it changes through challenges presented in life. The movie was adapted from Ian McEwan's critically acclaimed novel of the same name. Main character, Briony Tallis, is portrayed through several moments in her life where she deals with family issues, love, rape, lies and finding herself. The idea of atonement is layered throughout and is an example of storytelling at its best, with great performances by Vanessa Redgrave, Kiera Knightley and James McAvoy. "Atonement" would make a wonderful gift for anyone who likes a movie pieced together with depth and brilliant cinematography.



## TOP THREE CHILDREN'S TOYS

By TODD HANSEN

### The Ultimate WALL-E

Many kids enjoyed the Pixar's movie "WALL-E" in theaters last summer and now they can enjoy him in their own living rooms. The Ultimate WALL-E is a remote-control robot that was released in early November. But what sets this robot apart is the fact that it's interactive. WALL-E responds to a child's voice by turning to look at the child and talking back. The robot can even tilt its head in all directions, move its arms and blink. While this toy is likely to be on wish lists across the globe, WALL-E robots as a little on the hefty side, costing \$249 each.



### Crayola Glow Station

If you have a child on your gift list who loves to draw or color, then the Crayola Glow Station is a great gift. The station includes a canvas that children can doodle on. After their masterpiece is complete, they can turn the lights out and see their artwork glow in the dark. The station also includes stencils that will help younger kids draw the shapes they want. The drawings eventually fade away, letting the child draw something new. The station runs about \$40 and is available at most toy stores.



### Marshmallow Shooter

For the next generation of Bart Simpsons, the Marshmallow Shooter is a great substitute to the slingshot of the 1990s. The pump-action rapid fire shooter's come in a variety of color combinations and hold up to 25 mini marshmallows at once. This toy can hit an object up to 30 feet away with some models even featuring a laser that helps with aim. The Marshmallow Shooter is a fairly safe alternative to bb guns and high-powered paintball guns and is a lot softer on the pocketbook at \$15.

## TOP THREE VIDEO GAMES

By MIKE BELL

### Fallout 3 (PC, Xbox 360, Playstation 3)

Made by the creators of Oblivion, "Fallout 3" was one of the biggest titles this year. It takes place in post apocalyptic Washington D.C. The player must venture from the comfort of the large underground vault for the first time in his or her life. Choices made along the way will either help mankind restore some semblance of civilization to the wasteland or shatter what hope the broken nation has. The Xbox and PC versions have downloadable content on the way, while the computer version already has a growing mod community. Playstation owners are stuck with the original game for the foreseeable future.

### Rock Band 2 (Xbox 360, Playstation 2, Playstation 3, Wii)

This is the ultimate party game. Gamers rock out on plastic guitars, beat plastic toms and wail into a microphone to their favorite hit songs like "Round and Round" and "We Got the Beat." The drum kit is available in wireless form with cymbals and a metal reinforced kicker, so no more shattering the footpad while jamming out to Duran Duran. Another new feature is the Tour Mode. Instead of having to pick a single line-up, players now can change members at will. "Rock Band 2" is fun for the whole family or for a night in with your friends.

### Gears of War 2 (Xbox 360)

The fight for the human race's survival continues as Marcus Fenix and Dom Santiago take the war to the Locust. "Gears of War 2" still employs the cover-seeking strategy and complex firefighting of its predecessor while injecting new weapons, enemies and much more. Already selling 2 million copies its opening weekend, "Gears" promises hours of intense multiplayer once the main story is done with combat and improvements to the camera. A co-op mode is called "Horde," in which a team of five players tries to survive wave upon wave of Locust enemies for as long as possible.

# Attention!

## ALL International Students with F & J Visa

- If you have health insurance not from UNO, you will be billed for UNO insurance.
- In order to waive the charges, your plan must be reviewed by Marcia Adler at Student Health Services, MBSC 1st Floor before January 30, 2009

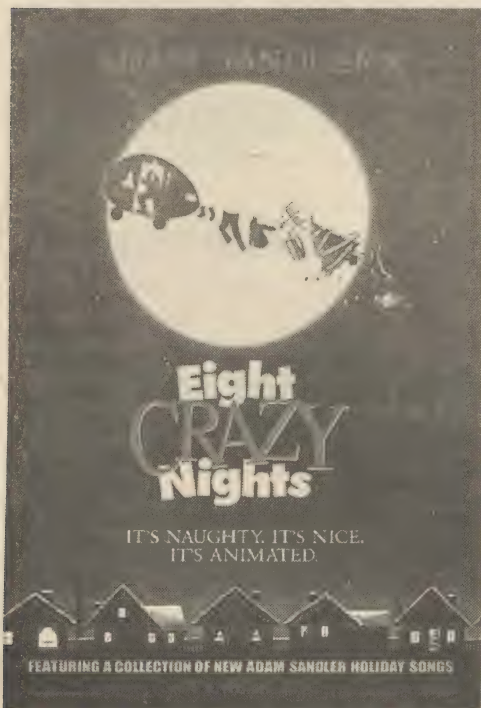
This must be done each semester!





# Not your typical holiday movies: Looking for a new classic flick

Every holiday season, we are constantly bombarded with the same movies on TV. For example, on Dec. 24, TNT will once again be showing "A Christmas Story" for 24 hours straight. Although the movie is quite amusing, there's only so many times a person can laugh at "you'll shoot your eye out." The same can be said with other classics such as "It's a Wonderful Life" and "Miracle on 34th Street." For viewers who feel saturated with the traditional holiday movies, below is a brief list of films that might help break up monotony of Christmas TV programming.



## 'Eight Crazy Nights' (2002)

This Adam Sandler animated movie about Davey Stone, an alcoholic troublemaker sentenced to referee a youth basketball league under the supervision of a 65-year-old man named Whitey. This flick is filled with toilet humor and an occasional catchy song. Stone, after a series of arguments with Whitey, finally realizes what a jerk he has been and in the classic holiday tradition, decides to change for the better. Universally panned by critics, "Eight Crazy Nights" isn't Sandler's best movie, but it has its moments and it's one of the few movies ever to reference Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights. Also, when watched with the right company with few belts of egg nog, it can be pretty funny.

— Ryan Wilch



## 'Zack and Miri Make a Porno' (2008)

While not a holiday movie in a classic sense, "Zack and Miri" has heart. The movie begins by having the main characters, Zack, played by Seth Rogen, and Miri, played by Elizabeth Banks, attend a high school reunion the day before Thanksgiving. Shortly thereafter, Zack gets the brainy idea to make a pornographic film to help them get out of their financial troubles. Though it's filled with adult humor, the last third of "Zack and Miri" manages to capture the holiday feeling of sentimentality and goodwill towards others.

— Ryan Wilch



## 'Gremlins' (1984)

This Steven Spielberg-produced "horror" film doesn't need to have Christmas as its setting. Billy Peltzer's parents could have given him an oversized hamster, or Mogwai, any time of the year. Still, the chaos that ensues when Billy disobeys the three rules regarding owning a Mogwai is enhanced by the snow covered sets and holiday lights. The special effects in this film, which were top notch considering it was made in 1984, have been overshadowed by newer technology, giving the movie a more campy feel than was originally intended. Although "Gremlins" looks more and more like a B-movie with each passing year, it's still fun to watch and serves as a reminder that serious responsibilities shouldn't be passed along to a grown man who lives at his parent's house and calls himself Billy.

— Ryan Wilch



## 'Planes, Trains, and Automobiles' (1987)

Long before Sept. 11 attacks made traveling around the country difficult, John Hughes made a movie about the problems of getting home for the holidays. Neal Page, played by Steve Martin, finds himself in a tough spot after his flight has been cancelled. His situation doesn't get any better when he accepts the aid of Del Griffith, played by John Candy. Martin plays the role of the straight man to Candy's buffoon. It is hilarious and makes the viewer wish that Candy's life hadn't ended so abruptly.

— Ryan Wilch



## 'The Nightmare Before Christmas' (1993)

Only Tim Burton could come up with a holiday musical about kidnapping Santa Claus. When Jack Skellington grows bored with being the Pumpkin King of Halloweentown, he decides to take over the role of jolly old Saint Nick. Unfortunately, Jack and his minions are not quite up to task. Instead of delivering toys to children of Christmas day, little ones wind up opening presents consisting of shrunken heads and other disturbing items. Darkly entertaining, "The Nightmare Before Christmas" is a classic that shows that imagination and storytelling coupled with a great animation and music will always trump any run-of-the-mill holiday movie.

— Ryan Wilch



## 'While You Were Sleeping' (1995)

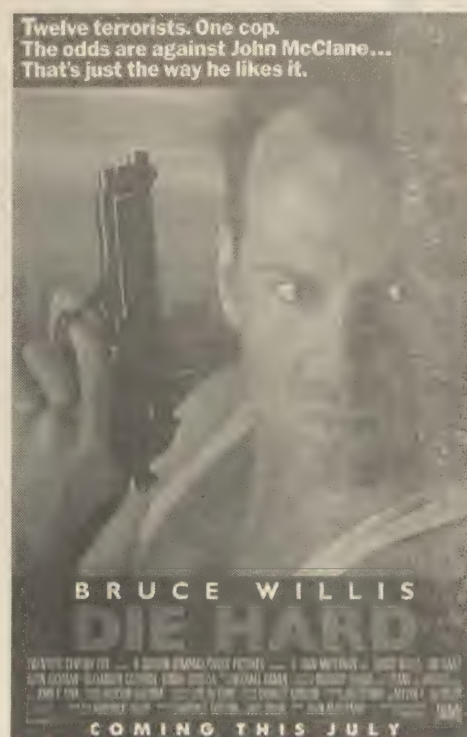
This Sandra Bullock romantic comedy sheds light on what's really important this holiday season: family and friends. Lucy, a fare collector for the Chicago railway, is bribed into working on Christmas day. When she sees her longtime crush, Peter, played by Peter Gallagher, being mugged, and saves his life. However, Lucy is mistaken for Peter's fiancé and confusion and hilarity ensue. Yes, some might call it a chick flick, but "While You Were Sleeping" is a classic, heartwarming film that helped launch Bullock's career.

— Andrea Barbe

## 'Die Hard' (1988)

Officer John McClane, played by Bruce Willis, attends his estranged wife's Christmas party and finds himself destroying half of the Nakatomi building all while attempting to rescue her and her co-workers from terrorists. The score from the movie, especially the use of Beethoven's "Ode to Joy," gives the film an overall holiday feeling, even when McClane is festively dropping the main villain, Hans Gruber, played Alan Rickman, out of the building. After watching this action-packed classic, you'll want to respond to every "Happy Holiday" or "Merry Christmas" by saying "Yippie-ki-yay." Come on, it's "Die Hard."

— Ryan Wilch



## FROM SHOWS: PAGE 7

another winner on its hands.  
4 out of 5

## 'American Idol' – FOX, Jan. 13 and Jan. 14

"American Idol" returns to Fox for yet another season showcasing some of America's most talented performers. With seven seasons down, the show returns with a new judge. Songwriter, producer and singer Kara DioGuardi joins Randy, Paula and Simon for some honest entertainment and fun. If you're not a fan of the show, be sure to at least watch the first few rounds of auditions, which combine the good, the bad and the ugly. Lots of fans, myself included, will be watching to see how DioGuardi meshes with the rest of the judges, especially that hot mess Paula.

4.5 out of 5

## 'I Love Money 2' – VH1, Jan. 26

What could possibly be better than combining the most obnoxious, sleazy reality TV tramps from four separate VH1 shows into one mega clusterfudge of disarray and anarchy? Nothing. This pack of unlovable losers competes in awkward challenges for a chance at winning \$250,000. I'll admit that watching the first season was my guilty pleasure, so there's no doubt that season two of the show will be just as satisfying.

5 out of 5



# COME ONE, COME ALL!

The Gateway is in town  
and we're currently accepting  
applications for all positions.

Applications for Editor in Chief  
are due no later than

**NOON**

on

**JANUARY 5<sup>TH</sup>**

All other positions will be filled on  
a rolling basis starting January 6th.

Positions being hired include news  
editor, culture editor, sports editor,  
opinion editor, copy editor, line editor,  
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All staff positions at The Gateway  
are paid. Course credit may also be  
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writers and photographers are also being accepted.

To apply, stop by The Gateway officers or visit our online application at  
[HTTP://WWW.UNOGATEWAY.COM/APPLICATION](http://www.unogateway.com/application)

For more information, e-mail

Carol Buffington at [cbuffington@unomaha.edu](mailto:cbuffington@unomaha.edu)





# Maverick hockey keeps skating through holiday break

SCOTT STEWART  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

With the holidays coming up, many UNO students are prepping not only for finals, but also for a well-deserved vacation. But not the Maverick hockey team.

Between now and the start of break, the Mavs will face two Central Collegiate Hockey Association opponents as well as take a three-game non-conference road trip after a two-week break for Christmas.

Going into the end of the semester, UNO stands at 9-4-3 overall, including 5-4-3-2 in the CCHA with two shootout wins. The Mavs are ranked fourth in the conference behind Alaska, Notre Dame and Miami.

Last week, the Mavs split a pair of shootouts against Alaska. The series will go down as two ties towards NCAA standings, though, because the CCHA is the only Division I league using the NHL-style shootout system.

UNO goaltender Jerad Kaufmann also raised more than \$12,700 during Military Appreciation Night on Saturday. Kaufmann organized an auction of special camouflage jerseys to benefit the Nebraska Troop Support and the Bryan McDonough Military Heroes Foundation.



Goaltender Jeremie Dupont and Dan Charleston (left) eye a loose puck during last weekend's series against Alaska. (MICHELLE BISHOP/THE GATEWAY)



Tomas Klempa maneuvers the puck during last weekend's series against Alaska. (MICHELLE BISHOP/THE GATEWAY)



Dan Charleston winds up to fire a shot during last weekend's series against Alaska. (MICHELLE BISHOP/THE GATEWAY)

## Lake Superior State

This weekend, UNO hits the road to Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., for a two-game CCHA series against the Lake Superior State Lakers.

The Lakers are 4-6-6 overall and 3-4-5-1 in the CCHA, most recently dropping a pair of shootout losses to Northern Michigan at home. They currently stand at eight in the 12-school conference.

In their last encounter with the Mavs, the Lakers tied two games with 1-1 and 3-3 overtime outcomes.

Overall, UNO leads the series between the schools 8-3-3, but the outcomes are tied in Sault Ste. Marie at 3-3-2.

## Yale

The Mavs again will face a pair of Ivy League schools shortly after Christmas. UNO takes to the road this year, facing Yale first on Dec. 29 in New Haven, Conn.

The Bulldogs are currently 8-3-0 on the season, with their last game a 5-2 loss on Dec. 6 against Union.

Yale defeated the Mavs 6-3 at their meeting at the Qwest Center last year. The teams have only met two other times: in 2006, the teams tied 4-4 in overtime in New Haven, and in 2003 the Mavs defeated Yale 5-2 in Denver.

## Princeton

The second Ivy League foe the Mavs will take the ice against is Princeton, located in Princeton, N.J.

The Tigers are currently 10-2-0 on the season, after defeating Quinnipiac 4-1 on Dec. 3. Their only conference loss this season so far was against No. 17 Cornell on Nov. 7.

Last year, the Mavs suffered a 3-5 setback from Princeton. The year before, they skated to a 2-3 overtime loss to the Tigers.

The only other match-up between the schools was a series in Omaha in 1997, which the Mavs dropped 2-7 and 3-5, leaving UNO seeking its first victory over the Tigers in school history.

## Minnesota State, Mankato

Before returning home, the Mavs will travel to Mankato, Minn., to face the Minnesota State, Mankato purple Mavericks.

Last year, the Mavs skated to a 6-3 win over their namesake in Omaha before Christmas. In 2006, the teams also tied 4-4 in overtime.

Overall, Minnesota State, Mankato leads the series between the two schools 12-7-3. In Mankato, UNO still trails 6-4-1.

## Northern Michigan

The Mavs finally return home to the Qwest Center to face the Northern Michigan Wildcats on Jan. 9 and Jan. 10.

The Wildcats are 3-10-3 overall and 2-9-3-2 in the CCHA, most recently earning a pair of shootout wins over Lake Superior State. Nevertheless, they currently stand at 10th in the 12-school conference.

Overall, the Wildcats and the Mavs are tied in the series between the schools 12-12-2, with the Mavs holding an 8-3-0 edge in Omaha. The last time UNO fell to Northern Michigan at home was in October 2006.

## Wrestling takes two top spots in tourney

BOB VACANTI  
SPORTS EDITOR

After taking a couple weeks to rest after hosting the Kaufman-Brand Open at the Sapp Fieldhouse on Nov. 22, UNO traveled to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, to compete in the Northern Iowa Open, where more than 15 teams competed.

Leading the Mavs were senior Ross Taplin and sophomore Ryan Pankoke, who both won first place over their opponents from Iowa and Iowa State at 165 and 174, respectively.

Also placing in the event was freshman Matthew Baker with fourth place at 184 as well as sixth place finishes from freshman Tyler Kottas at 141, junior Cody Garcia at 133 and sophomore Austin Boehm at 184, who was injured during the event.

In the NCAA Division II, UNO remains ranked at No. 1, where they've been since the beginning of the season.

The Mavs are heading to Kearney, Neb., to compete in the Nebraska-Kearney Open Saturday. UNO will then travel to Blair, Neb., for the Dana Open on Jan. 3 to kick off the new year.



# Swimming, diving earns fifth consecutive Mutual of Omaha championship

**MICHELLE BISHOP**  
PHOTO EDITOR

The swimming and diving team grabbed their fifth consecutive Mutual of Omaha title last weekend. The Mavs dominated the invite, winning all but one event.

Sophomore Laura Kemp led UNO with three individual titles in the 200 and 400-yard individual medley as well as the 200-yard breaststroke. Sophomore Cait Hopkins, juniors Kristy Gmeiner and Jessica LaFave and senior Lindsey Kline each picked up two individual titles, as well.

UNO's relay teams won the 200, 400 and 800-yard freestyle as well as the 200 and 400-yard medley relay.

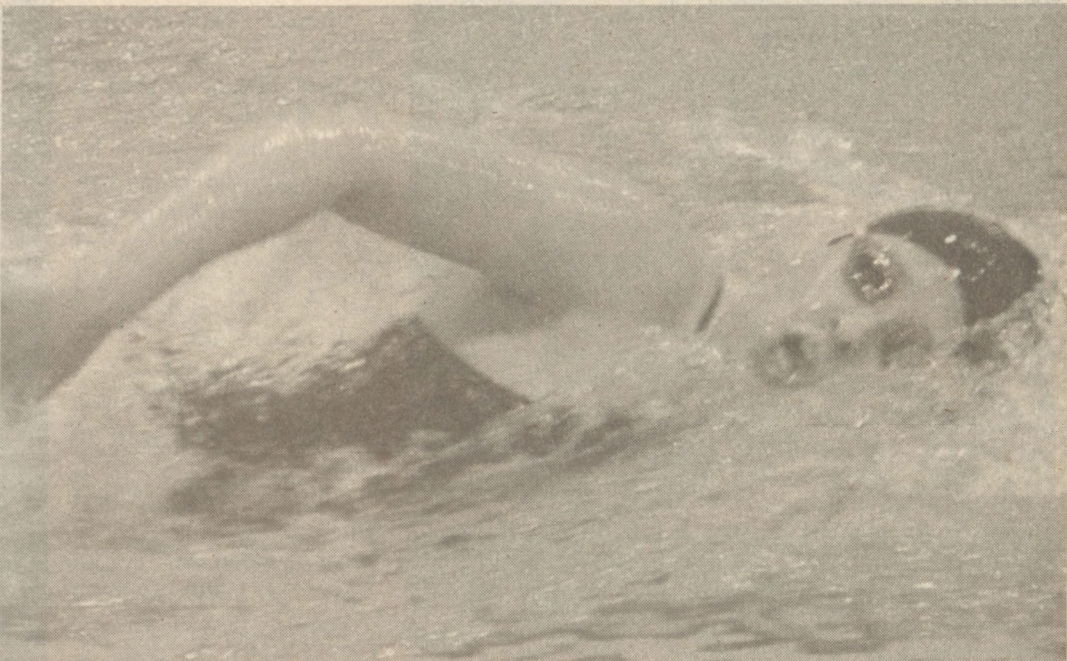
The Mavs won the 200-yard freestyle relay in a time of 1:37.54 and grabbed the top five spots in the 400-yard individual medley. Kemp won the race in a time of 4:40.44, while LaFave was second in

4:42.87 and Kline was third at 4:44.32.

Divers sophomore Jessica Connick and freshman Michelle Bene finished first and second respectively in the 1 and 3-meter diving events.

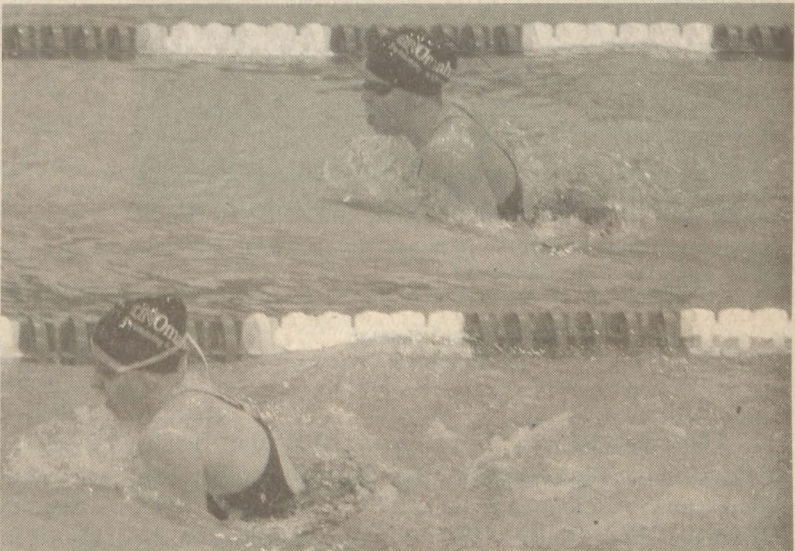
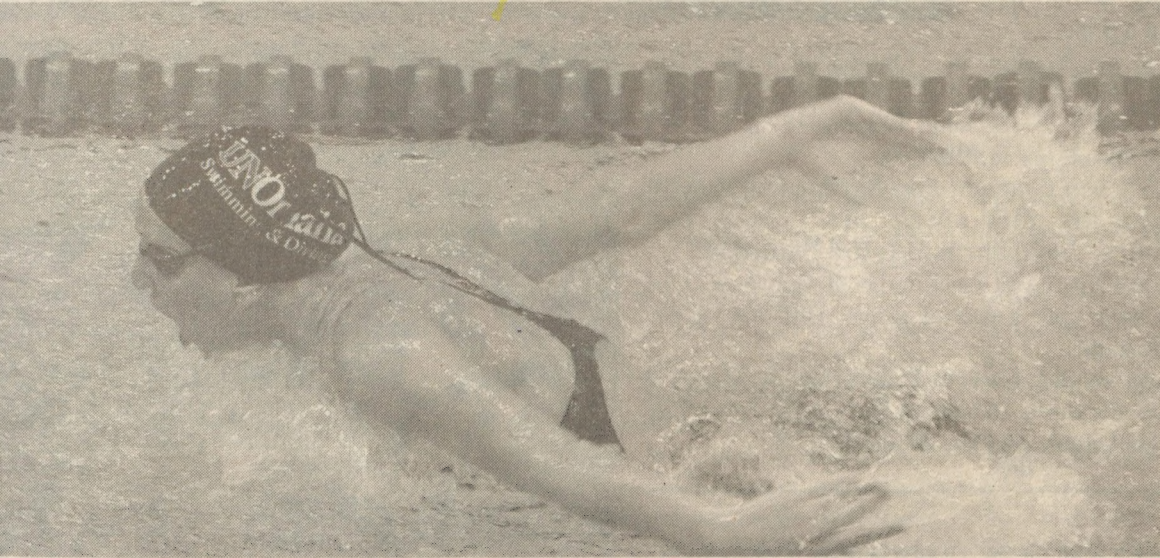
The Mavs finished first with 1,932 points, easily outdistancing the runner-up University of Colorado-Boulder swim club with 801 points. Nebraska-Kearney finished in third ahead of Morningside College, Simpson College and swim clubs from UNL and the University of Kansas.

The Mavs return to the Health, Physical Education and Recreation building pool to face South Dakota Friday at 6 p.m. UNO will then take a break from action until Jan. 30 when Nebraska makes the trip up I-80 to face the Mavs.



Laura Kemp swims in the 400 yard individual medley last Friday morning at the Mutual of Omaha Invite. Kemp led the Mavs with three individual titles in the 200 and 400-yard individual medley and the 200-yard breaststroke. (JODI PENN/THE GATEWAY)

Lindsey Kline swims in the 400 yard individual medley last Friday morning at the Mutual of Omaha Invite. (JODI PENN/THE GATEWAY)



Laura Kemp (front) and Jessica LaFave swim in the 400 yard individual medley last Friday morning at the Mutual of Omaha Invite. (JODI PENN/THE GATEWAY)

## Attention All Students!

Swearing-In Ceremony  
-AND-  
Reception  
honoring

**NEAL A. BONACCI**

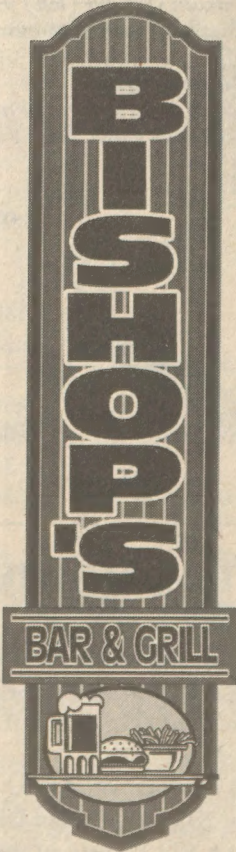
2009 UNO Student Body President/Regent

**KEVIN HUDDLESTON**

2009 Student Government Vice President

**Tuesday, January 13**  
Swearing-in Program & Reception  
12:30 p.m.  
MBSC Ballroom

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\$5.00 pitchers of Bud Light, Bud,  
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### TUESDAY

\$2.50 selected imports and  
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### WEDNESDAY

Ladies Night-1/2 price on all  
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### THURSDAY

College Night \$1.00 Drafts  
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Miller Lite

LIVE  
KARAOKE!  
starts at 9 pm

### FRIDAY

Happy Hour All Night and  
\$3.00 well drinks

### SATURDAY

\$2.50 Drafts and \$6.00 Pitch-  
ers of Boulevard and Fat Tire,  
and \$3.00 Jäger Bombs

WEEKLY SPECIALS FROM 7PM TO CLOSE.  
SPECIALS VALID THROUGH 1/31/09



# Men's basketball returns for first home game in nearly a month



Nate Owen drives past York's Jermaine Harris during Tuesday's game. (JODI PENN/THE GATEWAY)

MICHELLE BISHOP  
PHOTO EDITOR

The men's basketball team returned to the friendly confines of the Sapp Fieldhouse Tuesday night for their first home game in almost a month. UNO rolled over NAIA Division II York College 101-58 to improve to 6-1 on the season.

With only a little more than three minutes off the clock, the Mavs stormed out to an 11-0 lead. UNO increased its lead to 20-4 before York (0-10) closed the gap to nine points at 20-11. The Mavs retaliated with seven straight points to push their lead to 16.

"We got off to a really good start," coach Derrin Hansen said. "We got some good looks and we happened to make those. That's what got us the lead to 20-4."

Junior Dion Curry scored 13 of his points in the first half as UNO took a 48-26 lead into the break.

The Mavs proved to be too much in the second half for the winless Panthers as they sailed to their second straight win. UNO finished with 41 points off the bench in the second half.

"We came out with a lot of intensity," said Curry, who led the Mavs with 19 points.

Junior Tyler Albers finished with 17 points, while sophomore Aaron Terry led UNO with 10 rebounds. Junior Andrew Bridger added five assists.

Wendell Moore led York with 15 points while Justin Ward added 12.

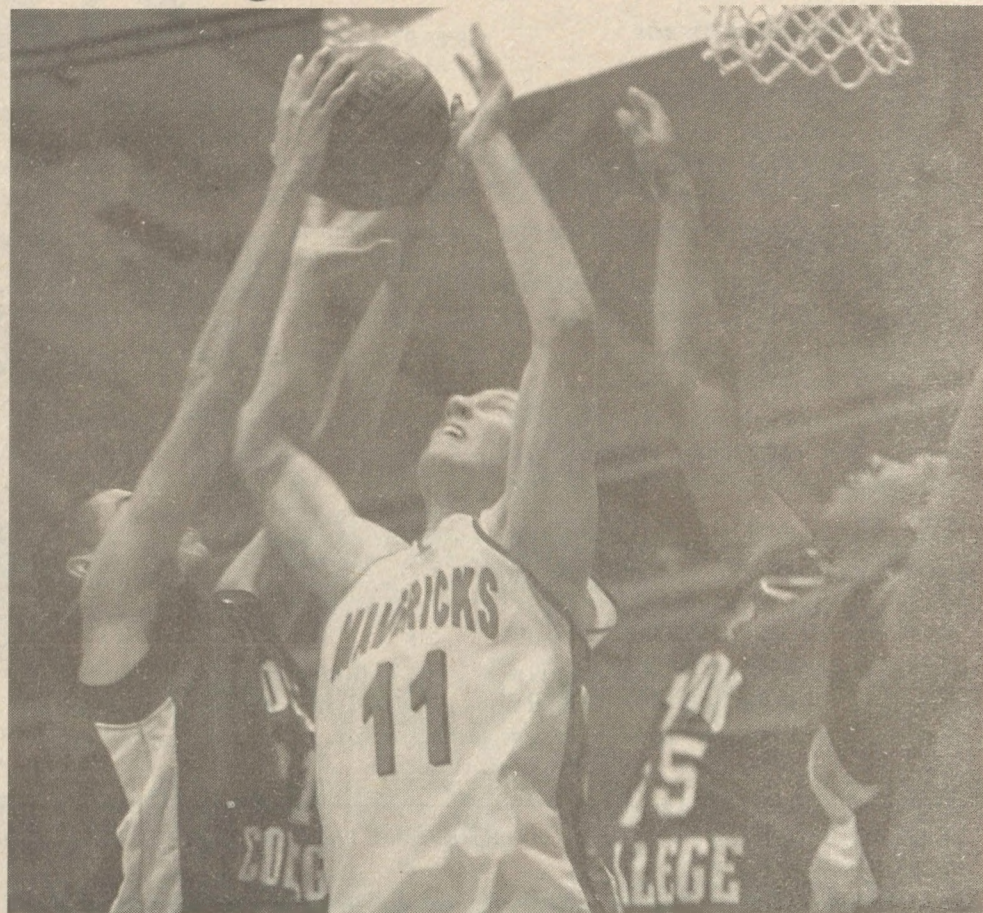
The Mavs return to action on Saturday when they host MIAA foe Northwest Missouri State at the Sapp Fieldhouse at 6 p.m.

The Bearcats, heading into Omaha on a two-game losing streak, will be looking to earn head coach Steve Tappmeyer's 400<sup>th</sup> career win. Tappmeyer, in his 21<sup>st</sup> season at Northwest, sits at 399-196.

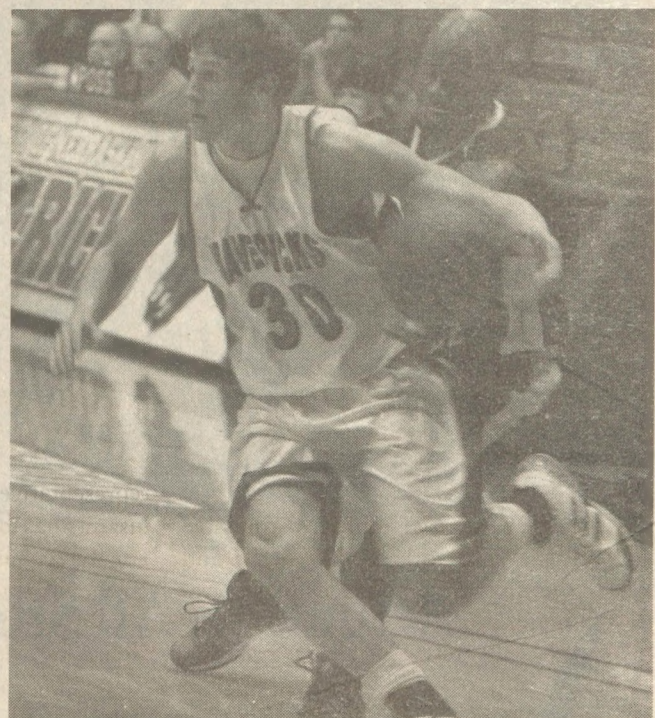
"They're well coached and hardnosed; they're a good team like they always are," Hansen said. "We're going to have our hands full Saturday."

UNO trails Northwest 12-11 in the all-time series. Last season, the teams split a pair of games, with the visitors winning each game.

The Mavs will then travel to Texas to face St. Mary's of Texas and Southeastern Oklahoma State at the River City Classic in San Antonio on Dec. 20 and Dec. 21.



**Top Right:** Matt Newman goes up for the rebound between York College's Dakota Webster (left) and Reggie Johnson (right) during Tuesday's game. (MICHELLE BISHOP/THE GATEWAY)



**Bottom Right:** Mitch Albers drives around York's Wendell Moore during Tuesday's game. (JODI PENN/THE GATEWAY)

12/13/2008	Northwest Missouri State (home)	6:00 p.m.
River City Classic - San Antonio, Texas		
12/20/2008	vs St. Mary's (Texas)	7:30 p.m.
12/21/2008	vs Southeastern Oklahoma State	5:15 p.m.
12/31/2008	at Emporia State	Emporia, Kan. 3:30 p.m.
1/3/2009	at Missouri Western	St. Joseph, Mo. 7:30 p.m.
1/7/2009	Truman State (home)	7:30 p.m.
1/10/2009	at Central Missouri	Warrensburg, Mo. 3:30 p.m.

## Women's hoops breaks three-game skid

MICHELLE BISHOP  
PHOTO EDITOR

The women's basketball team broke a three-game losing skid with a 61-32 win over York College of NAIA Division II Tuesday night at the Sapp Fieldhouse. Senior Amanda Brodsack scored a career-high 20 points, while senior Cayla Hargrove chipped in 11 as the Mavs picked up their second win of the season to improve to 2-4 on the year.

The Mavs jumped out to a 9-0 lead and held the Panthers scoreless until the 13:30 mark of the first half. York (0-13) went on a 12-4 run to come within one at 15-14, but UNO answered with a 13-5 run to take a 25-17 lead into halftime.

UNO came out full throttle in the second half and led by as many as 30 points. Brodsack

led the way, netting eight of UNO's first 14 points and 18 points total in the second stanza - exactly half of UNO's output as they outscored the Panthers 36-15.

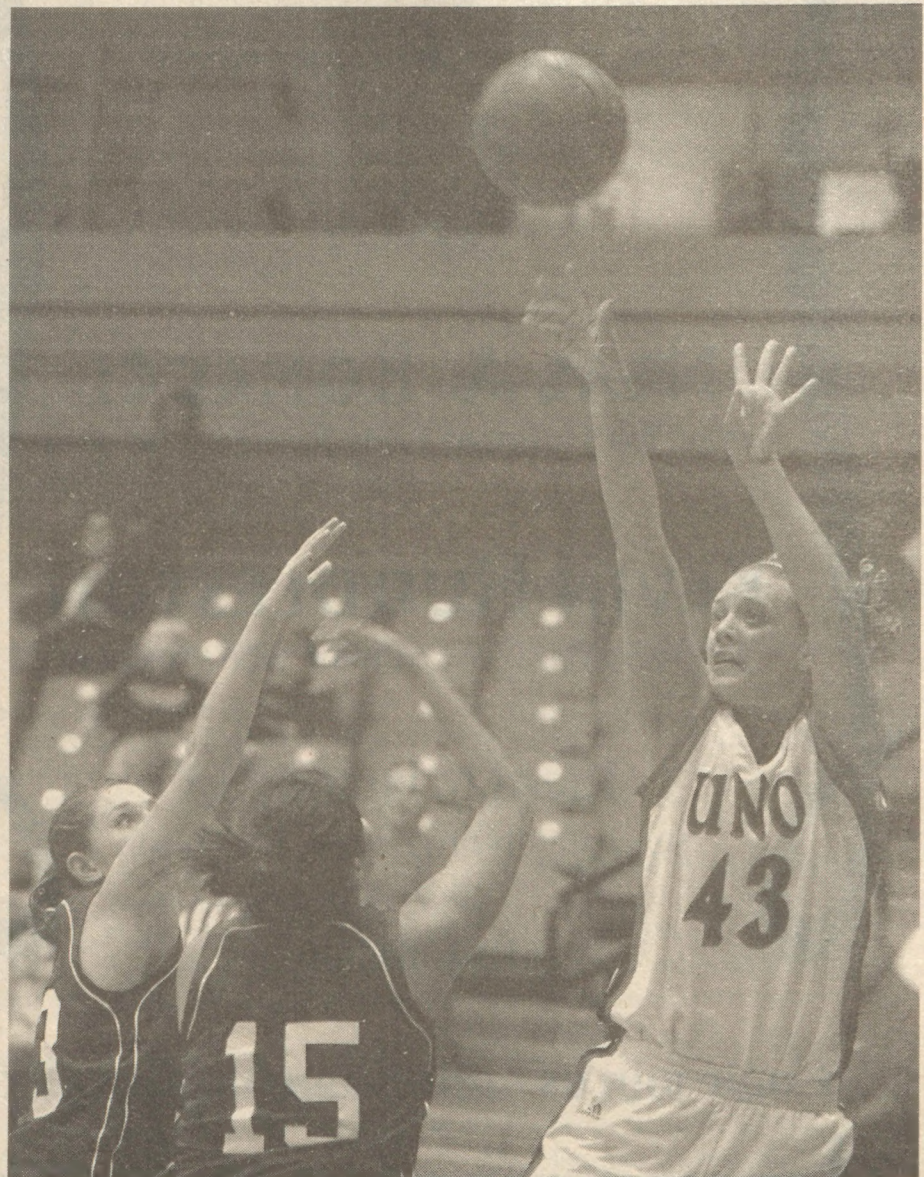
Brodsack and junior Alyssa Green each grabbed eight rebounds to lead UNO.

UNO shot 42.1 percent in the second half after making just 29.4 percent of their first-half field goal attempts.

The Mavs will face MIAA foe Northwest Missouri State at the Sapp Fieldhouse Saturday at 4 p.m. and continue their home stand with a game against Bemidji State Dec. 19 at 5:30 p.m.

UNO and Northwest have battled 23 times in the past with the Bearcats holding a 12-11 lead in the all-time series. The Mavs won the last meeting 71-64 on Dec. 14, 2007.

12/13/2008	Northwest Missouri State (home)	4:00 p.m.
12/19/2008	Bemidji State (home)	5:30 p.m.
12/31/2008	at Emporia State	Emporia, Kan. 5:30 p.m.
1/3/2009	at Missouri Western	St. Joseph, Mo. 5:30 p.m.
1/7/2009	Truman State (home)	5:30 p.m.
1/10/2009	at Central Missouri	Warrensburg, Mo. 1:30 p.m.



Amanda Brodsack puts up a shot over the arms of York's Carrie Berger (left) and Kimberly Tsinnie (center) during Tuesday's game. (JODI PENN/THE GATEWAY)



## Too big to fail: saying 'no' on bailouts

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The world as we know it changed on Sept. 15.

When we all went to bed on the night before, we knew the economy wasn't the best, but there was no reason to panic. We'd get through it.

But with one little headline, that all changed. "Lehman Brothers collapses," has led to a downward spiral of ineffective government and uncountable amounts of money being either lost or wasted.

Little did we know that in a short time, the doom and gloom economic mentality would become the norm and the federal government would start buying massive chunks of private corporations and throwing billions of dollars around without blinking.

(Incidentally, John McCain's poll numbers consistently trended up for several weeks leading up to Lehman's collapse. They plummeted following the "crisis")

As is required, once something goes wrong, Congress must swoop in and act. After bumbling around incoherently for a few weeks, a compromise was formed.

President Bush, who still claims to be a conservative, signed the bailout bill in to law on Oct. 3. Seven hundred billion dollars were assigned to "rescue" our economy. That's a seven followed by 11 zeroes: \$700,000,000,000.

A question remains — where did this money come from? On Oct. 2, where was that \$700 billion? It obviously wasn't sitting in some bank vault waiting to be allocated.

Our nation is running a massive deficit, has incomprehensible debt, and faces the incredible burden of several impending unfunded mandates, namely Social Security and Medicare.

The money came from one of two

sources: foreign investors (probably from China) buying up U.S. Treasury notes, which is bad, and the printing press, which is far worse.

Now that the financial services industry has gotten itself a government approved do-over, other needy parties are marching or, in the case of the auto industry, flying in private jets to D.C. to beg for their piece of the we-screwed-up-and-now-want-your-money pie.

The Big Three in Detroit, homebuilders and states are among the forlorn attempting to stick their hands in the cookie jar. And how can you really blame them?

If someone set up shop on campus and said that anyone in serious money trouble who risked embarrassment by begging would have their financial troubles absolved, the line for forgiveness would stretch miles.

The main responsibility rests on the "leaders" in Washington who have created a culture in which Big Brother Government is there to bail out any company that makes bad decisions. A government that has thrown the free market into the trash basket and now finds it appropriate to buy up huge chunks of companies.

Where does this conundrum end? Will every industry get a piece of the pie? The question is not who will get a piece of said pie, but where the pie originates.

The United States gets its money through taxes. So when \$700 billion is spent, it is eventually coming out of the pockets of every citizen, roughly \$2,300 for every man, woman and child in America.

I encourage everyone to contact their representatives and tell them the bail out insanity has to end. Omaha's Congressman, Lee Terry, has been shifting back and forth on the situation.

Give him a call and let him know that Nebraskans don't support endless giveaways to irresponsible corporations.

## Is Christmas too big to fail?

The following editorial appeared in the Chicago Tribune on Friday, Nov. 21:

(MCT) — Every Who down in Whoville likes Christmas a lot, but the budgets to pay for the trappings are shot. And, no, we're not going to write this entire piece in verse; we don't have the in-house talent to sustain it and our freelance budget is hurting, but that's precisely our point. Who can afford the holidays this year?

Retailers are bracing for a disappointing shopping season. Americans who are worried about losing their jobs, their homes and their life savings aren't in the mood to line up for Nintendos.

Employers have canceled Christmas parties and holiday bonuses. Shopping malls aren't hiring seasonal workers. Local governments are cutting funds for their holiday displays or threatening to. No, Virginia, there is not a Santa Claus. Maybe next year.

Across the country, cash-strapped towns will make do with fewer lights and shorter parades. The Wall Street Journal reports.

The Amalgamated Order of Real Bearded Santas, a trade group, is holding meetings to discuss economic survival strategies. Lavish open-bar office parties are out; potlucks in the break room are in. American Express, Hearst Corp. and Morgan Stanley all have canceled their holiday staff celebrations, according to the Wall Street gossip site Dealbreaker.com. Don't miss the bitter grousing in the site's

anonymous comment section.

In Chicago, a City Hall budget crunch was eased by \$10 million by giving employees three extra days off during the holidays — without pay. You're a mean one, Mr. Grinch.

Whose idea was it to schedule the holidays in the fourth quarter? That short-sighted plan virtually guarantees that seasonal good cheer will be axed whenever we need it most. Right now, for example.

To riff on Dr. Seuss a little more: We have an idea. An awful idea! This page has a wonderful, awful idea!

You guessed it — a bailout. Why didn't we think of it sooner? Taxpayers have already committed nearly a trillion dollars to saving mortgage monsters Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, insurance giant AIG and the entire banking industry. What's a few billion more for tinsel and lights?

As long as Congress is working on a plan to save Detroit automakers from themselves, why not underwrite a few thousand office parties while we're at it? How about a modest economic stimulus package — say, a \$25 gift card for every American?

Yes, we know that in the end, the Grinch could not stop Christmas from coming. But our economic crisis is much bigger than one cave-dwelling green meanie and his dog-drawn sleigh.

We need help, and we know just the man for the job: Henry Paulson. If this works out, he can carve the roast beast.

## Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus

The following editorial, published unsigned but written by Francis Pharcellus Church, appeared in the New York Sun on Sept. 21, 1987. It has since become the most reprinted newspaper editorial in history, with this transcription coming from the Web site of the Newseum in Washington, D.C.

**Dear Editor:** I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, "If you see it in The Sun it's so." Please tell me the truth; is there a Santa Claus?

Virginia O'Hanlon, 115 West Ninety-Fifth Street

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except [what] they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! How dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike

faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You may tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! He lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.



## Be aware of the risks of gift cards

The following editorial appeared in the Kansas City Star on Friday, Nov. 28:

(MCT) — Gift cards can be useful for holiday shoppers, especially when it comes to that distant cousin nobody knows very well. But the cards carry some risks, and consumers should take the time to consider them.

With the economy in a tailspin, the financial status of a company becomes important because of the limited protection given to holders of their gift cards.

A card purchased from a company that files for bankruptcy may lose some or all its value.

In addition, it may be difficult to redeem a card if a retail chain closes down some of its locations, although the advent of Internet shopping has surely alleviated this somewhat.

Opting for gift cards that can be used in a wide variety of locations, such as those

issued by shopping malls or major credit card companies, helps avoid the possibility of a card losing its value if a particular retailer disappears.

But though these gift cards offer more protection for consumers, they often come with potential fees.

If a card isn't completely used after a year, for example, it may have a certain amount subtracted from it, with more fees exacted in succeeding years.

Under Kansas law, for example, these fees can't begin until at least a year after a card is bought, and customers must be informed of them at the time of purchase. But not everyone is aware of these fees.

Be sure to tell card recipients about them.

It is frustrating to find an old gift card only to discover it has lost all of its value. And for those who are afraid cards may get set aside and forgotten, there's always cash.